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THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2014

National Pet Month
Feature on pages 16-17

In Business Update Page 24

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £25 TO SPEND WITH A GEM ADVERTISER OF YOUR CHOICE! See Page 26

CYLINDER FIRM FINED AFTER WORKER LOSES LOWER LEG IN EXPLOSION

A worker filling gas cylinders had his leg severed below the knee when a faulty cylinder he was filling exploded at Guardian Gas Ltd, Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend.

Andrew Wright, 43, from Sketty, near Swansea, was filling the cylinder with nitrogen and carbon dioxide when the explosion happened on March 29, 2010. He subsequently had his leg amputated above the knee and has been unable to return to work since.

The incident was investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which prosecuted Gaspack Services Ltd at Cardiff Crown Court on March 31.

The court heard that Mr Wright had filled the cylinder for use in the drinks' industry to 230 bar pressure and was disconnecting the filling hose when the explosion happened.

HSE's investigation found the failed cylinder was one of a batch of cylinders which Guardian Gas had sent to Gaspack, a certified cylinder inspection body, for inspection, testing and certification, to prove their safety for a further 10 years. The cylinders had been returned to Guardian Gas certified as safe to use.

Gaspack's inspection should have included internal shot blasting to remove corrosion, a thorough internal check to look for cracks or flaws and a hydro test to 345 bar pressure.

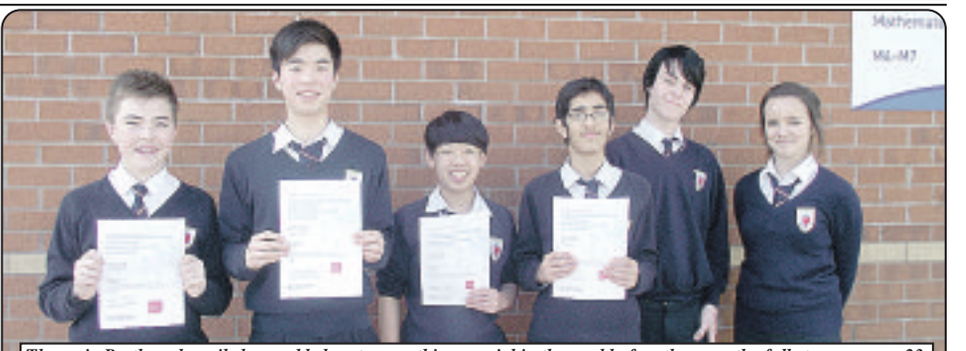
HSE found that only the bottom 2/3 of the cylinder had been shot blasted and the rest of the surface was covered in rust. An examination showed the explosion was due to a large crack near the top of the cylinder.

Other cylinders from the same batch had also not been shot blasted near the top 1/3. The layer of rust found in these cylinders would have rendered any internal inspection looking for flaws or cracks meaningless, since they would be concealed by the rust.

An examination of the arrangements at Gaspack also revealed shortcomings in procedures, information, records, competency, supervision and monitoring.

Gaspack Services Ltd of Gellihirion Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £30,000 and ordered to pay £60,000 in costs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



These six Porthcawl pupils have added up to something special in the world of maths – see the full story on page 23.

Two men are jailed for burglary which 'traumatised' local couple COURT IS TOLD

by AJ SICLUNA

A couple suffered "terror and misery" when two men took part in a raid on their home as they slept, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

One of them awoke to find one of the intruders staring at her.

Barry Jones, 37, of Coed -y- Craig, Pencoed, and Matthew Ready, 29, of Highfield Place, Bridgend, were each jailed for three years, four months.

Both admitted charges of burglary and interfering with a vehicle and Jones was in breach of a suspended sentence for stealing meat.

Said Recorder Ian Murphy, QC: "This was an extremely serious dwelling-house burglary. On the day concerned, you had been taking heroin and drinking, and you set out with dishonest intentions. It appears probable that there was a third man with you.

"Later, a young couple had a terrifying experience. They suffered terror and misery." He said they had both been traumatised.

Prosecutor David Thomas said the couple and a 15-month-old child lived in Pendre, Bridgend.

On February 3, the family went to bed at about 11.30pm but one of them failed to lock the kitchen door. Outside the premises were two vehicles, and the defendants went into both of them before going into the house and carrying out a search of the ground floor.

They then went upstairs and the woman was awakened by one of the defendants staring at her.

The defendants left after going into the sleeping child's bedroom.

She later said she'd been terrified and added that it will take a long time for her to get over the experience.

The following day, the police questioned the defendants after a report that people were fighting in the street.

Later, the police found footprints of the men on the premises.

Jones was said to have convictions for burglary and Ready for burglary and robbery.

Kevin Seal for Jones said there had been no confrontation with the couple.

"His problem has been an addiction to heroin, and he didn't actually enter a bedroom."

Andrew Taylor, for Reading, said: "It was an opportunistic offence. His intention was to raid parked cars, to steal items to sell for cash for heroin.

"The house concerned was not targeted and there was no wanton damage. He apologises for his 'abominable conduct'."

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How Britain connects with the rest of the world...

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing a report from Westminster for The GEM.

SPRING is here. I felt it when I visited Pyle garden centre to celebrate the second anniversary of its new ownership.

Everywhere there were spring plants and bushes and trees coming into bud. It made me feel very positive until I was driving home and then thought of the dreadful state of my own back garden and the lawn, which looks full of clumps as I failed to make the final cut of the autumn before the rain started, and it was never dry enough to cut again.

I had convinced myself that I could leave the lawn until next weekend when I turned into my street and saw my neighbour Glen cutting his front lawn, so I need to write this column tonight as Sunday has to be lawn cutting day.

I thought I would talk about emails and access to information after receiving two emails which were both anti-European rants full of inaccurate facts about the cost of the UK's membership of Europe, and seemed to have been generated by a recent TV debate.

Having spent time this week with a company desperate to have me understand the importance of the EU to their business, I thought I would google for a few facts. I love the way a quick few words into a search engine brings up the information you need from totally reliable sources.

HM Revenue and Customs breaks down month by month the UK's import and export figures for trade. The latest figures I could find for my correspondent showed that exports to the EU from Britain for January 2014 were £12.3 billion; an increase of £0.4 billion (3.6 per cent) compared to December 2013. Imports to the UK from the EU in January 2014 were £17.9 billion; an increase of £1.1 billion (6.3 per cent) compared to December 2013.

I thought my correspondent would seize on these figures as evidence of a dastardly EU plot against the UK so looked at the non-EU exports for January 2014 which were £14.5 billion; a decrease of £0.3 billion (2.2 per cent) compared to December 2013.

As with the EU we imported more than we exported to the rest of the world. Non-EU imports for January 2014 were £16.8 billion; an increase of £2.2 billion (15.2 per cent) compared to December.

This got me thinking. The EU has a population of around 507 million or just 7.3 per cent of the global population. It is the largest economy in the world. The UK exported £12.3 billion worth of goods to just 7.3 per cent of the world's population in just one month this year. That is a lot of goods.

Yes, we imported £17.9 billion worth of goods but a considerable amount of that is imported energy. The UK imports 36 per cent of its total energy needs, which is having an impact on our import figures.

Our exports to the remaining 92.7 per cent of the world were just £14.5 billion, a mere £2.2 billion more per month. Another google took me to the website for UK Trade and Investment where they are trying to increase our exports around the world. From April 7 – 11, they are running a series of workshops to help companies find markets overseas.

Sadly, it is not because Britain does not manufacture great products, we seem to have lost the confidence to sell ourselves abroad. The Revenue and Customs site allows me to track the changes and to see if we can build confidence in our companies to search for markets abroad.

I know some Bridgend companies do this well but we can do more. Bridgend County Borough Council's economic development unit helps by providing information in relation to business grants and exporting.

So, I shall be writing back to my correspondent and point out how much of our current export trade rests with the EU and how we benefit from the single European market. I will point out that we have to find ways of growing our exports to the rest of the world.

The focus of the two emails was on the European elections of May 22 and I will be suggesting they need to also look at other elections coming even sooner.

India, with a population of 1.2 billion (twice the size of the EU) has its Parliamentary elections running from April 7 to May 12 this year so that its 800 million voters can access the polls and the results will be announced on May 16.

Another important election takes place in April, when the people of Afghanistan will elect a new president. Turkey is holding its local government elections at present and they are expected to send a negative message to the present Turkish government.

In an interdependent world elections are important wherever they take place. Their outcomes affect us in ways we often fail to appreciate.

Britain is not isolated from the rest of the world and a few minutes of surfing the web can make this very clear.

Epilogue; the lawn was cut and spring was very much in the air on Sunday and I remembered to change the clocks.

SPECIAL OWNERS NEEDED FOR HUSKY PUPPIES

DOGS TRUST Bridgend is appealing for appropriate homes for a litter of five adorable Husky puppies.

This is Vespa, one of the puppies who is looking for the right home.

In 2013 there was a dramatic 61 per cent increase in the number of wolf type breeds being cared for by Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity.

With this in mind the centre is looking for experienced, dedicated owners who will be able to offer these energetic puppies the loving homes for life which they deserve.

The 12-week old puppies found themselves at the rehoming centre through no fault of their own when their owner was no longer able to care for them. The litter of five puppies have been named Vesper, Vernon, Violet, Viola and Victoria by staff.

They have already begun their training as the centre is following a step-by-step puppy socialisation plan *www.thepuppyplan.com* which the new owners will then continue.

Dogs Trust Bridgend training and behaviour advisor, Rachel Kitson explained: "There are few things more appealing than a beautiful Husky puppy and though we know they will make wonderful companions with the right owners in a suitable environment it is *imperative* that we find owners for them who understand the demands of this breed and are in a position to offer a lifetime commitment.

"They may be cute puppies now but they will soon grow into powerful, large dogs who will need regular exercise, socialization and habituation. These dogs are bred to pull sledges for hundreds of miles, live in large packs and work in minus temperatures.

"Sadly, we are seeing many of these dogs being abandoned when they become too much for their owners who have not considered the implications of purchasing Husky puppies."

The center is looking for people who have a large garden and can exercise the dogs a number of times each day.

Potential owners should call the Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725219 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Read your GEM online - visit bridgend-today.co.uk

Mums-to-be are encouraged to give up smoking

WALES has the highest rate of smoking during pregnancy in the UK which is putting thousands of babies' lives at risk, health charity Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Wales has warned.

A total of 33 per cent of mums-to-be in Wales smoke at some point during their pregnancy – considerably higher than the UK average of 26 per cent – exposing 11,864 unborn babies to harm from tobacco each year.

Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of stillbirth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (cot death); premature birth; low birth-weight and miscarriage.

Maternal smoking is also associated with a range of health problems throughout the baby's life including asthma, birth defects such as cleft lip, ADHD and learning difficulties.

ASH Wales is calling for every midwife and health visitor in Wales to be trained to advise women about quitting smoking as part of their pre-registration training, in a bid to support more women through the process of giving up.

Samantha Paul of Bridgend.

Elen de Lacy, chief executive of ASH Wales, said: "It is a sad fact that Wales continues to have the highest rate of smoking in pregnancy in the whole of the UK. Giving up smoking is hard on its own but with the added pressures of having a baby it is doubly challenging, which is why extra support is vital for pregnant women to help them give up."

Samantha Paul from Bridgend gave up smoking when she was pregnant with her second child with support from a project at Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

"I was smoking between 10 and 20 a day and knew I had to give up but I couldn't do it on my own. The help I got from my midwife Julie was brilliant. She came to the house and really helped me through it.

"She told me that we would set a date to quit and helped me prepare all week for that day. I got an inhaler and patches and within two days I'd quit and I haven't smoked since but she still calls me up to see how I'm doing.

"The readings on the carbon monoxide monitor used to scare me because of what was going through to the baby – the reading was 18 before but is now down to 2. Now I can't even stand the smell of smoke!

"I would encourage other mums-to-be to just give it a go, but they need support and someone to help them through it."

Learning all about the bumble bee!

THE pupils and staff at St Clare's School nursery were thrilled to have an exclusive invitation to a special event in Cardiff, where they learnt all about bumble bees in the St David's 2 shopping centre.

The event was organised by the International Bee Research Association, who want to teach more children about the importance of bumble bees in our environment.

The children learned lots of interesting facts about bees, before enjoying some fun activities including making their own bumble bees and a colouring-in competition.

They were then allowed VIP access to Hamley's toy shop, where they spent time learning more about bees, looking at the toys and having their faces painted. Everybody then had a surprise bumble bee goody bag before returning to school.

JH

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	09.37	9.8	21.51	9.7
04 Fri	10.14	9.2	22.26	9.1
05 Sat	10.48	8.8	23.02	8.6
06 Sun	11.26	8.1	23.44	8.0
07 Mon			12.17	7.5
08 Tues	00.46	7.4	13.33	7.1
09 Wed	02.16	7.3	15.11	7.2
10 Thur	03.43	7.4	16.19	7.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Woman tried to start a fire... BUT AT THE WRONG HOUSE

A DRUNK Maesteg woman tried to start a fire after placing a piece of burning paper into a letterbox, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

But Tina Potter was so inebriated, she targeted the wrong house, said prosecutor David Elias.

Potter (54) of Caerau Road, Maesteg, was cleared of a charge of damaging by fire a property with intent to endanger life, but was found guilty of arson, being reckless as to whether life would be endangered.

Sentence was adjourned for the preparation of a psychiatric report.

The court heard that four years ago, she was convicted of an offence of arson, committed in a supermarket.

Mr Elias said that Bethan Worrell lived in a flat in Caerau Road, and Potter had the flat above. There had been difficulties with Potter's behaviour in her flat and she had been a nuisance to Miss Worrell.

On one occasion, she had put takeaway food through her letterbox, and there had been loud and noisy behaviour.

Matters came to a head on November 2 when Potter, in the street drunk, shouted at Miss Worrell: "Come over here and you are dead." She ignored her.

But the following day, a teenager saw Potter light a piece of paper and put it through a letterbox, but it turned out to be the wrong letterbox.

The police and fire service were called and fortunately, the flames went out and the only damage was to the letterbox and a draught excluder.

"But that was only a matter of chance," said Mr Elias.

The paper consisted of a receipt for goods bought locally, and the item purchased was a cigarette lighter.

When arrested, Potter said: "No, I didn't start a fire," and claimed she had been "set up" by neighbours who wanted her evicted.

She denied having a lighter because, she said, she didn't smoke.

Said Mr Elias: "She was just clutching at straws."

Bridgend men get suspended sentences for drugs offences

TWO men have been sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court for a series of drugs offences.

Stuart Heredge (37), a care home assistant of Pisgah Street, Kenfig Hill, admitted two charges of possessing drugs with intent to supply.

Christopher Hind (21) of Maesyfelin, Wildmill, Bridgend, admitted possessing drugs with intent to supply and supplying drugs.

Heredge was jailed for eight months, suspended for a year and Hind was jailed for six months, also suspended for a year. Each was also made subject to a supervision order.

Prosecutor David Thomas said that on October 18, a community support police officer saw a BMW parked in a lane in Coity Road in which were the two defendants.

The police were called and one of the men said he had drugs for personal use, consisting of four bags of cannabis. In a glove compartment was £670 cash.

Heredge later said he'd been dealing for about a year and had been smoking cannabis for some years. The £670, he said, was his and some of it came from drug dealing.

Hind later accepted responsibility for a quantity of drugs found in the footwell of the car.

Rhodri Chudleigh, for Heredge, said he was a man of clean character who'd had financial problems.

Jeremy Jenkins, for Hind, said that "the case had been a wake-up call."

Recorder Ian Murphy, QC, said Heredge had had drugs worth £400 and Hind had had drugs worth £70.

TRACTOR RUN HELPS RAISE FUNDS FOR AIR AMBULANCE

A TRACTOR road-run from the Anthony family's Cwm Risca Farm in Tondu near Bridgend was organized by the Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage society, to raise funds for the Wales Air Ambulance.

Some 65 tractors took part in the 25-mile run which included Bryncethin and Coity, and for most of the entrants a surprise trip through Sainsbury's car park in The Pines before stopping for lunch at the Fountain Public House in Tondu, close to the starting point.

Tractors throughout the convoy displayed banners showing the purpose of the event while promoting the GIHVS and the Wales Air Ambulance.

Some 60 tractors took part, ranging from 20hp 1940s Ferguson TE20s to the latest massive John Deere and New Holland tractors, some in excess of 150hp.

On March 18 at Heol y Cyw Social Club, members were delighted to present a cheque for £2,433.53 to a representative of the Wales Air Ambulance, Caterin.

She explained that the WAA has now responded to some 19,000 calls during its lifetime. She added that it costs around £1,500 an hour to keep the helicopter in the air, so donations are always desperately needed.

The Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society would like to thank the Anthony family of Cwm Risca farm for their continuing support and the use of their farmyard as the starting venue, also the organizing members and, most of all, the public for their donations.

Further events are planned.

David J Perrin (secretary).

Projects share funding

CABINET Members from Bridgend County Borough Council have awarded a funding package of £57,988 to town and community councils so that they can create a number of exciting community projects during the next year.

The Darren Fawr mountain bike trails, Pyle Community Council (to refurbish an area known as Rosemount Gardens), Maesteg Town Council (for a paved area next to the Llynfi Surgery), Cefn Cribwr Community Council and Porthcawl Town Council are all set to benefit.

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Pencoed salon is inspired by cancer charity

Salon owner Heather and beautician Chan.

INSPIRATIONS of Pencoed is pleased to announce that it has chosen Macmillan Cancer Support as its charity for the year.

Salon owner Heather Drake explained: "We know from experience what our clients are going through and this is why we have chosen Macmillan as our charity.

"Hair is a crowning glory and we want what may be a very stressful situation for clients to be turned into a positive experience. Whether they've lost hair through illness, stress or hereditary causes, we can help.

"My passion for wigs and hair replacement started almost 10 years ago and in that time I have perfected fitting, cutting, styling and drying wigs for my clients, so that they have exactly what they want when they leave my salon."

Salon beautician Chan Kaursingh added: "In addition to Heather's work, once the client is happy with their 'new hair' they will receive a free half hour beauty treatment such as a neck, back and shoulder massage or a mini manicure.

"A Thai foot and leg massage is very relaxing and aids lymphatic drainage, which is also crucial during cancer treatments. My family has recently been touched by cancer and I have a good understanding of what many of our clients and their families are going through".

Nicola Newhams, of Macmillan Cancer Support said: "Cancer is the toughest fight most of us will ever face. The feelings of loneliness and isolation that so many people experience make it even harder. Now, more than ever, we need people like Heather and Chan to join our team and get involved. We rely on our supporters for 98 per cent of our income and such donations make a real difference to those affected by cancer".

To find out how you can help, call 0300 1000 200 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising.

DASH to thank Sylvia

DASH (Drug, Alcohol, Support and Help) will be celebrating 30 years of services to the Bridgend community on April 7.

An open day on April 7 will provide members of the public with a chance to come in and see what services are provided.

Doors will open at 10am when Madeleine Moon MP will be unveiling a plaque for Mrs Sylvia Jones the founder of DASH.

Staff and trustees of the organisation will be using the opportunity to thank Mrs Sylvia Jones for her passion and commitment to DASH over the 30 years.

In 1983 Sylvia, a probation officer at the time, started DASH as a self help group. The organisation has since developed into a vibrant substance misuse agency offering a variety of services.

A spokeswoman said: "DASH would like to thank the service users over the past 30 years and those currently engaged for the privilege of working with so many individuals and their families.

"We would also like to invite anyone requiring help in relation to substance misuse issues to come along and see us. Appointments are not always necessary."

COLLEGE FILM STUDENTS ON LOCATION IN BARRY

Atlanta DiTomaso

Rosanna John

The 'Parallel House'.

Filming on location at Weycock Cross

BRIDGEND College students in their final year of the film and video foundation degree course are embarking on their most ambitious project to date.

The short film production, *Parallel House*, is set in a mysterious other world, where the central character is on a rescue mission to save her lover from her own fading subconscious mind.

The project forms part of the fiction film module of their degree, but beyond that, the team hope that it will raise their profile as talented filmmakers, while also promoting the Foundation Degree course.

The project is currently being filmed on location at the abandoned school buildings at Weycock Cross in Barry. The team, made up of Lexx Oliver, Daniel Norris and Jessica Richards, hope to inject some life back into the property, which has lain dormant for eight years, in an area which is under the threat of development.

Lexx Oliver, director, commented: "The film is about the loss of memories from someone's subconscious mind, which we feel is encapsulated by the forgotten buildings at Weycock Cross".

The film stars two up-and-coming actresses, Rosanna John from Pontypridd and Atlanta Di Tomaso from Carmarthen. They play the couple whose lives could potentially be torn apart by the strange happenings at 'Parallel House'. Even though their relationship is central to the story, Lexx Oliver explains "The LGBT 'theme' is not the crux of the film: it is about love, not sexuality".

The team's last production 'Forever For Our Diamonds' was nominated for an award at last year's Cardiff Mini Film Festival, and they hope to continue that success with their latest production.

"We've put our heart, soul, time and money into this film," said co-producer Jess Richards, "and it's make or break for us now".

Brynteg's aspiring accountants win ICAEW BASE competition

STUDENTS from Brynteg School in Bridgend beat off competition from seven other school and college teams, to win the Wales heat of the national Business Accounting Skills Education (BASE) competition run by ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales).

The first-ever Welsh heat of the BASE competition took place at Cardiff University on March 25, one of 47 heats attracting over 3,300 students in more than 550 competing teams across the UK.

BASE links schools, students and employers to increase awareness of a career in chartered accountancy and finance, and develop key employability skills in the future workforce.

Assuming the role of ICAEW chartered accountants, the students had just less than two hours to analyse, discuss and decide on the next business steps of a fictional organisation before presenting their ideas to a panel of business professionals.

The BASE competition was supported by a number of financial firms including PwC, Deloitte, BPU and Broomfield Alexander who provided professional mentors and judges.

In addition, students and teachers were given the chance to hear first hand accounts about the range of career options chartered accountancy can provide.

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'POPPIES WILL BLOOM IN PORTHCAWL' SAY SHOUT

HAVING suffered decades of regeneration blight, Porthcawl Shout Forum last year began thinking of ways to make the town more colourful and aesthetically pleasing for both residents and visitors.

Research was carried out with various borough councils and a horticultural company that is part of Sheffield University, and in October we proposed two 'wild flower' initiatives to BCBC for their help and approval.

Work has now started on the World War 1 commemoration project which involves seeding the 'gateway' roundabouts into Porthcawl with Flanders Poppies.

Porthcawl Chamber of Trade, the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and private individuals have very generously responded to fund the project.

Porthcawl Town Council has agreed to provide all poppy work on the Nottage Roundabout and BCBC has been helpful with planning the work. Porthcawl Shout Forum would like to thank them all for their help, community spirit and kindness in supporting this event.

Residents with a keen eye may have noticed areas already pegged off on the Dan-y-graig, Nottage and Porthcawl Town roundabouts as the BCBC parks and gardens' team start their preparation work.

In horticulture there are few guarantees but we all hope that during the World War 1 centenary in early August, Porthcawl will have a blaze of scarlet poppies to help both residents and visitors reflect.

One of the 'Great War' hallmarks was the pride people had in their country and how important it was for them to make a personal contribution and it has been most pleasing to experience those same values today in Porthcawl with residents prepared to support this attempt to recall and honour those lives lost "in some corner of a foreign field" long ago.

Gary Victor (Porthcawl Shout).

AM ASKS FOR CLARITY

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies is calling on Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to say what's happening with the Porthcawl regeneration scheme.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, submitted a Freedom of Information request to BCBC asking if the council had received any response from Sainsbury's about plans for a supermarket at Salt Lake.

She said: "I understand that the Porthcawl Regeneration Forum was told that Sainsbury's would be indicating whether or not they were interested in building this supermarket by the end of February, but nobody has heard anything since.

"Months have elapsed since Morrisons announced that they were pulling out and we have been asking since then what is happening with the second preferred bidder, Sainbury's. The silence emanating from the council is deafening.

"If Sainsbury's are not interested, then I think that the supermarket scheme may be dead in the water. I have been urging the council to have a re-think on its regeneration strategy. It is entirely based on the provision of a supermarket and housing. And both those ships may have sailed – at least for the time being.

"Traditional supermarkets are losing profitability at the moment as they fight off pound stores and the foreign chains like Aldi and Lidl; and new house building must also respond to local need as well as the strategic aims for the town's regeneration. It's not an easy fix.

"Are marina-style developments of apartment blocks, which is what is proposed for the rest of the Salt Lake site, as popular as they once were?

"So, it is time for the council to go back to the drawing board and devise a new strategy that can give Porthcawl the boost it desperately needs, especially to its status as a holiday resort and to its tourism offer. There are good ideas being discussed even now, like the Porthcawl Maritime Centre.

"It is also important that the residents gain something from the disposal of valuable council-owned land in the heart of the town – houses and a store do not cut the mustard."

Seaside Super Silt!

Shout's Super Silt brigade.

PORTHCAWL Shout Forum (PSF) has launched its latest initiative to help clean up Porthcawl by starting a new enterprise, Seaside Super Silt, which claims to dramatically enrich all garden soils and produce giant-sized vegetables and flowers.

In May 2013 the silt was excavated by BCBC contractors to lower the harbour floor and dumped for temporary storage at the top end of Salt Lake car park. It has now become a great embarrassment to the town trying to regenerate itself by attracting summer visitors with many businesses and residents desperate to see it gone.

However, analytical tests have shown the fertile mixture of decomposed seaweed and years of undisturbed bacterial activity is an amazing soil improver with the enriched silt type loam producing exceptional yields.

In tests by the Royal Porthcawl Allotment Society, tomatoes as large as footballs and runner beans the length of a man's arm have been grown.

PSF plan to have teams of its members 'bag and barrow' the Seaside Super Silt and sell it around the town and to visitors.

A spokesperson said: "Exercise is good for older people, so once we have cleaned up this mess, we may continue and dig out our promised swimming pool."

He added: "Beryl on the zimmer will manage the admin."

Invitations went out for the opening ceremony on Tuesday, April 1, to all borough AMs, councillors and town councillors.

Local AM and First Minister Carwyn Jones was invited to fill the first barrow and was reported to be "pleased with yet another Porthcawl Forum Initiative to improve the town".

Worker loses lower leg

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HSE Inspector Alan Strawbridge, speaking after the hearing, said: "Gaspack's failure to properly inspect the cylinders meant a critical flaw went undetected. This cylinder later exploded causing Mr Wright severe injuries, which could easily have claimed his life.

"A full cylinder contains a large amount of explosive energy which is why cylinders are subject to a regime of inspection and testing to ensure their safety.

"Any cylinder inspection body must ensure accurate procedures are in place, employees have access to information and instructions to help them do the job properly and a system of training, supervision, monitoring and auditing is rigorously enforced.

"People using gas cylinders are almost entirely reliant on the inspection body carrying out their duties thoroughly. Gaspack had failed in its duty to ensure that the public were not put at risk because of the poor quality of its inspections."

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Unsurprising then that recent research has confirmed that the majority of the 32 million cars in the UK are in need of attention to their paintwork and that most drivers would love to find a quick, cost-effective and convenient way of repairing their minor paint damage. After all, nobody wants the expense and inconvenience of booking their car into a body shop for small jobs. Industry experts also advise that keeping car paintwork up to scratch will extend the life of your vehicle and improve its value when you eventually look to sell.

"As the AA points out, it's a smart move, to get your car repaired if you have any form of minor damage to your paintwork," advises Simon John, Bridgend . "Whether a scratch, scuff, chip or dent, a cosmetic repair will not only make sure your car looks good, but will seal the area of damage, making it weatherproof and prevent rust setting in.

If you leave it, the rust will eventually lead to corrosion which could ultimately result in a more extensive – and expensive – repair!"

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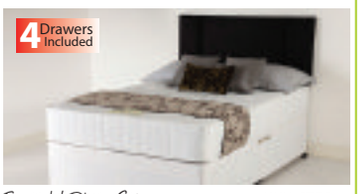

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'Rock Ness' monster musical in Bridgend

ABOVE: Bridgend College's second year BTEC Level 3 Music Practice students.

DID you know that: Loch Ness is 5 miles deep? It reaches the ocean on both sides? The Loch Ness Monster plays the guitar, kidnapped a princess and is actually a respectable villager of Drumandrocket … but doesn't know it?

Bridgend College students have teamed up with local primary school children to create and perform a brand new and unique rock opera – entitled *The Rock Ness Monster.*

Students in the second year of their BTEC Level 3 Music Practice course have devised the storyline, written the script and songs, and created the incidental music for the show.

The school children, from Litchard Primary, will be performing a number of singing and speaking parts in the show.

This is the sixth annual event of its kind, which will take place at the college's Sony Theatre.

The show promises to be "monster", with demand for tickets already high.

Bridgend College music tutor Phil Jones commented: "It's fantastic to see such enthusiasm from our students, as well as the younger pupils, who really love being involved. This is a great chance for our students to show off their music skills, but also to be as creative as possible, and really have fun with the project".

The Rock Ness Monster will be performed at Bridgend College's Sony Theatre on April 9 and 10. To book tickets, contact Bridgend College on (01656) 302381 or email Colin Richards on cmrichards@bridgend.ac.uk.

CONCERT WILL AID LOCAL CHARITIES

ON Wednesday, April 9 at 7pm the Bridgend County Civic Charity Appeals Committee and the Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend – Coun Clive James – are holding a social evening with a difference at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend.

The entertainment provided is by a talented Bridgend girl, singer and songwriter Ahnuh Valentine, and also by the Bridgend County Youth Symphonic Brass with conductors Simon Ray and Robert Edwards.

The evening will also have local charity display stalls, craft stalls, body shop, all for £8 admission to include a light buffet.

The charities that will benefit are: Bridgend Stroke Group, Heronsbridge School Bicycle Recycling Workshop, Social Enterprise for 14 years to 19 years project and GOFAL for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

For further information contact M Major, MBE, 01656 664105, or Coun M Thomas 01656 861594 or Heronston Hotel 01656 668811.

Also, on Friday, April 25, the annual charity golf tournament takes place at Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club with teams of four players (£200) to include coffee on arrival, a three-course meal after the game with a presentation to end the day. Contact M Major 01656 664105 or Coun M Thomas 01656 861594.

MM

Who wants to build what and where in the local borough?

Mr Kevin Davies – **2 Llys Tynewydd, Coity** – Crown raise two lime trees to 6.5m removing secondary branches only.

Mr George Govan – **17 Llys Briallen, Brackla, Bridgend** – Top and lop hedgerow to prevent damage to property and improve light into gardens.

Kia Motors (UK) plc – **Kia Gravells, David Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – Various internally and externally illuminated advertisement signage.

Mr and Mrs Norman – **12 Clos-y-Grug, Porthcawl, Bridgend** – Two storey side and single storey rear extensions.

Mr Rob Morgan – **14 Chestnut Bush/Llwyn Castan, Broadlands, Bridgend** – Proposed single storey extension to rear.

Mr DS Hart – **8 Brynffrwd Close, Coychurch, Bridgend** – Detached double garage.

BCBC Building Maintenance – **Sunnyside House, Sunnyside Road, Bridgend** – to provide roof edge guardrail system.

Cotacabin Ltd – **Plot 4, Penllwyngwent Industrial Estate, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend** – Change of use of land for storage purposes.

Andrew Davies Wealth Management – **12 Well Street, Porthcawl** – Change of use from retail to financial/tax advice office.

Mrs Alison Edmunds – **47 Bowham Avenue, Bridgend** – Single storey side extension, first floor rear extension and garage conversion.

Mr Gavin Ansen – **22 Anglesey Way, Porthcawl** – Tiled roof extension to rear incorporating utility room and diner.

Mr and Mrs A Banks – **Glasfryn, Hendre Lane, Coity, Bridgend** – Certificate of lawfulness (existing) for use of land as a garden area.

Mr Alex Robershaw – **Blackmill Chapel, Graig Terrace, Blackmill, Bridgend** – convert existing chapel into residential dwelling with rear extension for entrance and garage/office space.

Mr and Mrs Andrew Davies – **9 Sanderling Way, Porthcawl** – rear sun room and pool with pergola, terrace and associated landscaping.

Mr Brian Williams – **20 Parc Tyn y Waun, Llangynwyd, Maesteg** – Two storey extension to rear and front porch extension.

Mr Walter Peyton – **7 Hafod Las, Pencoed, Bridgend** – Retention of conservatory to front elevation (resub of refusal P/13/916/FUL).

Mr Richard Thomas – **8 Y Llest, Penyfai, Bridgend** – Proposed extension to existing garage and small balcony to rear.

Messrs R David, J David and P Pook – **Land at Waterton Lane, Waterton, Bridgend** – Residential development of 40 dwellings, new access road and associated parking and demolition of existing building.

Mr M Davies – **11 Heol-y-Graig, Porthcawl** – Extension to provide kitchen, garage, bedroom and bathroom.

Mr R Howells – **Land north 12 Bridgend Road, Pontycymmer, Bridgend** – Two detached houses with garages.

Mr Anthony Wager – **65 Ogwy Street, Nantymoel, Bridgend** – First floor rear extension.

Mr P Jones – **12 Cwm Felin, Blackmill, Bridgend** – Loft conversion with front pitched roof dormer window.

Mr David Howells – **58 Woodlands Park, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend** – Rear side and front extensions.

Mr Paul Sky – **10 Celtic Road, Maesteg** – Single storey kitchen/wetroom extension to rear.

Mr RJ Newman – **138 Newton Nottage Road, Porthcawl** – Proposed single storey and proposed altered access drive.

Dr HD Parry – **Brandon, Eithen Place, Porthcawl** – Proposed two storey extension.

Executors of Mr DJ Thomas – **Land off Waterton Lane, Waterton, Bridgend** – Three detached dwelliings.

TMS' 'virtuoso entertainment'

AT its recent Spring concert at Tabernacl Chapel, Bridgend, Tabernacl Music Society (TMS) delighted its audience with a well-chosen program of music by Handel, Pergolesi, Bach and Vivaldi.

The choir gave an assured performance, demonstrating once again its high standard under the musical direction of Dr Kevin Adams.

The first half of the concert began with an expressive rendering of Handel's 4th Coronation Anthem, 'My heart is Inditing', and concluded with the vibrant and energetic singing of 'Magnificat' by Pergolesi.

Interspersed with the choral items, providing a note of variety, were Bach's 'Concerto in D minor' for violin, oboe and orchestra beautifully performed by Joanna Walters (violin) and Elin Howard (oboe) and, in the second half, a lively rendering of Handel's triumphant 'Arrival of the Queen of Sheba' – a popular piece with both audiences and orchestras.

The concert ended with the uplifting 'Gloria' by Vivaldi sung by the choir with palpable joy, especially in the movement 'Domine Fili'.

In this piece, the choir was joined by young soloists from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama gaining stage experience as they step out on the brink of their singing careers – the introduction and promotion of vocal and orchestral students has always been an important contribution from the conductor.

The audience's enjoyment of an excellent evening of Baroque music was reflected in their enthusiastic applause at the end of the concert.

The choir now faces a big change and challenge. Kevin Adams has decided to step down as musical director at the end of June, after 20 years. During this time, the choir has been introduced to a broad repertoire which has included the major classical works, spirituals, songs from musicals, carols old and new, English and Welsh folk songs and works by many Welsh composers, including William Mathias and Karl Jenkins.

The choir is in good health musically and is now setting about its quest for a new MD to take it forward from September.

TMS's final concert this season, marking the end of an era, will be on Friday, June 6. This event will be special for two reasons. Firstly, it will be Kevin Adams' last appearance as musical director and secondly, the French choir, 'Chorale du Lac', from Bridgend's twin town, Villenave d'Ornon, are making a return visit to take part in the concert.

Choir members will be hosting their French guests for four days, during which there will be visits, lunches and entertainment, reciprocating the wonderful hospitality received by TMS last September during their visit to Villenave.

The choir welcomes new members. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays 7pm – 8.45pm. Contact the secretary on 07974 765578.

Anne Thomas

Colleges urged to attend 'Futures Day'

SCHOOLS and colleges across Bridgend constituency are urged by Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon to sign up to attend the 2014 Futures Day on July 18 at the Farnborough International Airshow.

The designated day is offered at no cost for school and college groups that sign up to attend, and sees aerospace companies of all sizes and from all over the country hang up their sales hats and open their doors to the next generation of budding engineers and scientists.

The MP commented: "Futures Day offers access to one of the world's largest airshows to young people at no cost. I encourage schools and colleges across the Bridgend constituency to sign up to attend the show and find out more about the huge range of opportunities on offer in this dynamic sector in a hands-on, engaging manner. It is a great opportunity for Bridgend students to meet other like-minded young people, as well as talk to those that have already successfully entered the sector."

Students of schools that are interested in visiting Futures Day at the Farnborough International Airshow should visit www.farnborough.com/Content/Futures-Day to find out more.

Bridgend parade marks new same sex Marriage Act

ON Saturday, March 29, equal marriage came into effect under the new Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act allowing any couple, regardless of gender identity or sexuality, to tie the knot.

In celebration, a wedding themed parade took place throughout Bridgend town centre which included a jazz band, wedding cars and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community members.

Organised by ABFABB and South Wales Police in partnership with the Bridgend Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Forum, the parade left Dunraven Place at 12.30pm, travelled through the town centre and finished back at The Zone at Dunraven Place, where there was an information centre for anyone wishing to learn more about marriage equality.

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‘ASK ABOUT CLOTS’ – Local man’s campaign to save more lives

A BRIDGEND man who is prone to developing life-threatening blood clots is backing a national campaign designed to help prevent patients dying from them while in hospital.

Wyndham Thomas, from Cefn Cribwr, suffers from a low protein deficiency and a gene mutation that makes him more susceptible to developing clots.

After developing two-near fatal blood clots as a result of his condition, he is keen to raise awareness of the danger of blood clots – known as deep vein thrombosis (DVT) – by backing the ‘Ask About Clots Campaign’, which is launched today, April 3.

The campaign has been developed by the ‘1,000 Lives Improvement Service’ at Public Health Wales and has been supported by thrombosis charity Lifeblood.

Research has estimated that 1,250 people are at risk of death every year in Wales from blood clots that they may develop while they are in hospital.

Keen cyclist Wyndham (73) was unaware he could be at risk of a blood clot when he fractured his pelvis during a bike accident in 1984.

After coughing up a significant amount of blood, he was rushed to hospital and was given blood-thinning medicines. At the time he did not know about his genetic disorder or the danger of blood clots.

Despite a number of family members being affected by clots, Wyndham first discovered he had a genetic disorder in 2004 after his nephew, Olympic triathlete Marc Jenkins, was tested after developing a clot as a result of an injury.

Following diagnosis, Wyndham developed a second clot in 2011. However, he was aware of the symptoms and was treated quickly. Despite now having knowledge of the signs of thrombosis, he is backing the campaign to help raise awareness of the condition and save lives.

Wyndham, a retired electrician, said: “The Ask about Clots campaign is really important to me as I have been significantly affected by clots throughout my life. My cousin and aunt both died from blood clots in their early 20s and 30s respectively, and a number of my family members carry the gene.

“I’m a very active person and when I first fell off my bike and got rushed to hospital, the doctor initially thought I had a kidney problem. A blood clot didn’t occur to me as I hadn’t been told about thrombosis or the risks at the time.

“Knowing about my genetic condition means I can prevent myself from developing fatal clots by knowing the signs and taking warfarin. I hope this campaign encourages more people to ask their healthcare professional for a clot risk assessment, as without mine, I wouldn’t be alive today.”

Dr Simon Noble, medical director for Lifeblood in Wales, said: “Most people associate developing a thrombosis with flying. However, two thirds of blood clots occur in hospital or in the 90 days following discharge.

“Ask about Clots will also encourage our healthcare professionals to be more aware of the risks and ensure all patients are assessed. Thrombosis is a condition that can be prevented.”

Campaign organisers will be working with NHS Wales health boards and trusts and third sector organisations to raise awareness of the issue and highlight the danger of thrombosis with the public.

A website has also been launched – *www.askaboutclots.co.uk* – which will provide further information and case studies to encourage individuals to contact their healthcare professionals if they have any concerns.

Left to right: Cdt Sgt Morris and Cdt Asba.

Cadets take to the skies

AFTER a few months of cancelled flying due to weather and operational conditions, some good weather arrived in time for two 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Sqn RAF Air Cadets to get their first flights in a Grob Tutor aircraft.

Escorted by Sgt (ATC) Peckham, Cdt Sgt J Morris and Cdt E Asba arrived early at MoD St Athan for the morning flying slot.

The cadets were shown a safety video, after which they had to carry out a physical test on emergency aircraft evacuation procedures, including how to get out of the aircraft while in flight and parachuting safely to the ground.

Don’t panic though, this was all done inside a hangar.

After a short wait, the cadets, one at a time, took to the skies for a 30 minute flight. Cdt Asba said she was slightly scared before the flight but now can’t wait to go up again.

Cdt Sgt Morris, who has already starting his training for his private pilot’s licence, performed some aerobatic manoeuvres during his flight. The Royal Air Force Air Cadets is the only Cadet Force to have flying and gliding as part of its normal activities.

Sgt (ATC) Peckham, 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Sqn Training and Flying Officer, tries to get all cadets on the squadron flying or gliding twice a year where possible. With the RAF Air Cadets it’s possible to achieve flying and gliding scholarships from the age of 16, all with no cost to the individual cadets.

Photo and report by Sgt (ATC) Peckham.

“PEOPLE LIKE YOU... CAUSE CHILDREN TO BE ABUSED” - JUDGE

Pendoylan man had child porn on two computers

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A RETIRED businessman has received a suspended sentence at Cardiff Crown Court after police found pornographic images of children, some as young as 10, on his computer.

Ross Allan (69), a man with no previous convictions, of Heol St Catwg, Pendoylan, was said to have run and founded a charity which provided water wells in poverty-stricken African countries.

He pleaded guilty to five charges of making indecent images of children, two of possessing extreme pornography and one of possessing 148 indecent images.

He was jailed for six months, the sentence suspended for two years, made subject to a supervision order for 18 months and ordered to pay costs of £535. He will also have to register as a sex offender for five years.

Judge Tom Crowther QC told him: “The police were alerted to your predilection. It is important to note that people like you create a market and cause children to be abused. Every child depicted is a victim.”

The judge said that Allan was of previous positive good character and had indicated a high degree of self-knowledge.

Prosecutor Jason Howells said that intelligence was received by the child abuse section of South Wales Police, and on August 20, officers went to Allan’s home.

He told them: “People have sent me pictures of children which are indecent.”

The officers seized two laptops, each of which contained indecent images, some static, some were moving.

Allan said during interview that he used chat sites for stimulation, and got “sexual kicks” out of conversations.

Some images, he said, came by email, or through chat rooms. He said he was horrified to think that people believed he had paedophile tendencies and added that he was disgusted by his behaviour, and that he understood the girls involved were of a vulnerable age.

His barrister, Tim Evans, said: “This is an aspect of his life of which he is ashamed. He made immediate admissions and has been to two counsellors for a course of therapy. His wife fully supports him.”

Judge Crowther also made a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for five years.

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Bankrupt builder set up cannabis farm to support family COURT HEARS

CANNABIS plants with a potential yield worth more than £75,000 per crop were discovered when police searched the home of a man who had fallen on hard times, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Patrick Murray (41) said when arrested that he was growing the crop because his business had failed and he was desperate to support his family.

Murray, a man with no previous convictions, of Rosedale Cottage, Laleston, had been convicted by Bridgend Magistrates of producing cannabis, possessing a stun gun and extracting electricity, and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was jailed for two years, the sentence suspended for two years, made subject to a supervision order for a year and a 6.30pm to 6.30am curfew for four months.

"You should regard yourself as very fortunate not to be going to prison," said Recorder Ian Murphy QC.

Prosecutor Joanna James said that on September 24 last year, police searched the garage of Murray's home. He told them: "OK, it's cannabis in the garage. My wife knows nothing about it, I've been growing it for a year."

In the garage, two rooms had been created with three separate crops of cannabis. Altogether, said Ms James, there were 80 plants, a drying room, lighting and ducting, a year planner and scales.

In a briefcase, the police later found a stun gun.

Said Ms James: "In the garage was a dedicated cannabis factory. The electricity meter had been by-passed, and three separate crops were growing."

The cycle, she said, was being repeated four times a year.

Altogether, she added, electricity worth £8,567 had been illegally extracted.

Murray told the police he had fallen on hard times when his construction business became unsuccessful and he had been declared bankrupt.

He said he had the idea of growing the drugs after speaking to an acquaintance and had received information online.

He admitted selling some of the cannabis to an unknown party, whom he would not name.

The stun gun, he said, was for "target practice". His counsel Sue Ferrier said: "He has suffered with depression and has been under the care of a psychiatrist.

"He has had a very sorry history in recent years and he felt ashamed at losing everything he had worked for."

She said he had significant support from his wife.

What he did was the act of a desperate man who wanted to provide for his family.

He didn't know if the stun gun worked, and he realises how ridiculous his offending was.

The Recorder said: "This was a sophisticated operation. I accept that this is a very exceptional case involving a man of clean character.

"I agree you were a desperate man because of catastrophic events. You had suffered an injury, crippling debts and you felt suicidal."

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Student drugs dealer gets second chance

MOUNTED police on patrol in Bridgend town centre became suspicious when they saw a young man putting his hood over his head.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that officers later discovered he had been involved in supplying drugs.

Andrew Iles (20) of Longacres, Brackla, admitted possessing mephedrone with intent to supply and possessing the class A drug, Ecstasy.

Iles, who was said to have turned his life around, was sent to a young offender institution for six months, sentence suspended for a year.

Prosecutor David Thomas said the mounted officers were on duty in Derwen Road. They searched Iles and found he had eight bags of mephedrone (known as meow meow) worth up to £120.

His home was searched and there they found Ecstacy tablets.

Mr Thomas said Iles denied being a supplier but on his mobile phone, there were extensive texts to contradict that.

His solicitor, Rhodri Chudleigh, said: "He's still only a young man who had a difficult upbringing after his mother died when he was 10.

"He lives in a flat in Bridgend, began taking drugs and dropped out of sixth form college."

He said that since his arrest, he was drugs-free and hoped to go on to further education in Bristol or Bridgend studying drama.

Recorder Ian Murphy QC said: "I am sufficiently impressed by what you have done during the last eight months to pass a suspended sentence."

He said that when he was arrested, Iles was a street dealer and he added: "I sincerely hope you never possess drugs again."

Cadets gain their musicians' badges

Left to right: Cdt Cpl Leadbetter, Cdt Cpl Dixon, Cdt Flt Sgt Maine and Cdt Llewellyn.

FOUR cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Sqn RAF Air Cadets received their musician badges from Wing Commander Gil Singleton MCGI FRSA, the principal director of music (Air Cadets).

Before receiving their badges they were interviewed by the Wing Commander.

The award was given to the cadets as they have all passed Grade 4 Music and above. Flt Sgt Maine has also passed an assessment day at No.3 Welsh Wing Headquarters Swansea to be part of No.3 Welsh Wing Band, so watch out for her taking part in future parades.

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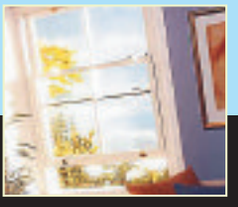

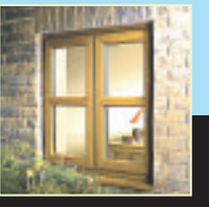

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Rugby star in plea for 'Bowel Awareness' month

I'M all too aware of the devastating impact that bowel cancer can have on people's lives; my mother successfully beat the disease, but sadly my grandfather lost his battle.

This April, during Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, I've signed up to Beating Bowel Cancer's Lift the Lid Day. On Wednesday, April 16, the charity is encouraging everyone to start up a conversation about bowel cancer. By lifting the lid on the condition, we can help beat the taboo surrounding it.

If caught early, over 90 per cent of cases can be treated successfully. That's why it's so important to spread the word about symptoms. Whether it's a chat over coffee with your family, putting up a poster at work, or encouraging an older relative to take up their screening invitation, every conversation you have could be lifesaving.

So help me 'Lift the Lid' on bowel cancer and let's beat bowel cancer together:

www.beatingbowelcancer.org/liftthelid

Matt Dawson,
Patron of Beating Bowel Cancer

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Company is fined £20,000 after workers suffer burns

TWO workers suffered burns, one seriously, when hot material from an industrial drier hit them as they tried to tackle a fire at a factory in south Wales, a court heard.

The employees of Maxibrite, in Llantrisant, were trying to fight fire at the Maxibrite coal briquette plant on December 16, 2012 when they were hurt, one suffering severe burns to his back, legs and hands.

The incident was investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) which prosecuted Maxibrite at Pontypridd Magistrates' Court on March 28.

The court heard works manager Simon Gilbody and works engineer Andrew Price were alerted by staff who saw smoke coming from the top of a tower used to produce solid fuel.

After several attempts to control the fire by hosing the tower failed, Mr Gilbody decided an inspection hatch at the bottom of the tower should be opened to let out any dust that might be causing an obstruction.

A company employee, Carl Lewis, opened the hatch but hot cinders cascaded out, burning Mr Gilbody on the chest, neck and face but without causing serious injury. As Mr Lewis tried to close the hatch, he was himself engulfed by hot coals. After showering for 30 minutes he was taken to hospital and received skin grafts for severe burns.

HSE's investigation found Maxibrite had not carried out a suitable risk assessment for the safe working of the rotary drier and failed to provide a safe way of working including adequate information, instruction and training for workers using the equipment, and in procedures to follow in the event of a fire.

Maxibrite Ltd, of Esh Winning, Durham, was fined a total of £20,000 and ordered to pay £5,115 in costs after pleading guilty to a breach of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and a single breach of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations.

HSE Inspector Steve Lewis, said after the hearing: "Mr Lewis and Mr Gilbody could have suffered far worse injuries or even death in this incident, which could have been prevented.

"The drying process at the plant involved intensive heat so the risks of fire should have been obvious. There had been a fire at the plant previously involving a similar drying process.

"Employers must make sure they have proper plans for dealing with emergency situations and that workers are trained to know what to do when something like a fire breaks out."

Local singer Jodie in Cowbridge concert date

PENARTH teenager, Jodi Bird gets the opportunity to perform alongside singer/ entertainer/ comedian, Mike Doyle and the award winning Bridgend Male Choir at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Friday, April 4.

Jodie Bird will perform this Friday

Jodi has twice appeared with the choir already. Firstly at its 2013 annual concert and then at a charity fund-raising event for Prostate Cymru.

Jodi first came to the notice of the Bridgend choristers when she performed at the Treorchy Eisteddfod winning the intermediate Best Singer prize and being acclaimed by BMC's musical director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale as "the best which I have heard at her young age".

Jodi will sing several popular items from her repertoire at the joint concert.

Tickets £15 (£12 concessions) are available from W G Davies, Newsagents, 38 High Street, Cowbridge, and The News Shop, 11 Dunraven Place, Bridgend.

Ticket returns at the Cowbridge Leisure Centre from 6.30pm until show commencement at 7.30pm.

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Barry woman on 'drugs cocktail' drove a car at pedestrian COURT HEARS

AFTER taking a cocktail of drugs, a woman drove her car directly at a pedestrian, injuring his hip, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Alison Smith (39) of Laleston Close, Barry, admitted dangerous driving, possessing a knife and driving under the influence of drugs.

Prosecutor John Warren said that it was about 5pm on July 3 when police were called to an incident in Barry Road involving people arguing in the street.

They spoke to Bernard Stringer, who directed them to a nearby VW Golf and he told them Smith was driving and had tried to run him over.

He said she drove at speed directly at him and struck his right hip.

The police spoke to Smith, who was mumbling and gurning, and she was arrested.

She told officers: "I've not taken anything." Inside the vehicle was a black-handled kitchen knife, and Smith denied knowing it was there.

She was arrested and a blood test revealed she'd taken diazepam and amphetamine, and she failed balance and co-ordination tests.

A witness later said that he'd heard Smith caused "massive wheel spin" and saw Mr Stringer fall onto the bonnet.

The court was told that she initially denied dangerous driving.

She denied intending to cause Mr Stringer any injury and said she didn't believe she was under the influence of drugs.

Smith was said to have convictions for 32 offences, including assaulting the police, threatening behaviour, theft, causing actual bodily harm, causing damage, driving while disqualified, driving without due care and attention and failing to report an accident.

Her solicitor, Andrew Shanahan, said: "She has recently engaged well with the probation service, and is making good progress. She is clearly vulnerable."

Sentence was adjourned and she was remanded on bail.

Men attacked an innocent bystander

TWO young men have been put behind bars for attacking an innocent bystander in Barry.

Recorder Peter Griffiths said what Daniel Winmill and Shae Mialkowski had done was "appalling".

Winmill, 19, of Holton Road, Barry, and his co-defendant, 18, of Coleridge Road, Barry, admitted causing Robert Bisacre actual bodily harm and each was sent to a young offender institution for 16 months.

Said the Recorder: "You set about an innocent man and beat him up. Fortunately the injuries were not as bad as they might have been".

Prosecutor Jonathan Bushell said that at about 12am on December 22, Mr Bisacre, who is from Bristol, went to a fast food restaurant in Holton Road with his girlfriend. Neither was in any way drunk.

The defendants were arguing with a man, shouting and swearing, and Mr Bisacre asked them to calm down.

Suddenly, without warning, he received a blow to the back of the head from Winmill.

Mialkowski said: "I'm going to ******* knock you out" and delivered a karate kick to his head.

"Mr Bisacre was in incredible pain and felt part of an ear come away," said Mr Bushell.

Winmill circled him, throwing punches, and he shortly after received more kicks and a stamp to the head.

"The pair of attackers walked off, laughing, and shaking hands, " said Mr Bushell.

The victim was treated at the University Hospital of Wales.

When arrested, Winmill said Mr Bisacre had been the aggressor and Mialkowski claimed he was attacked from behind.

Hash Salman, for Winmill, said he was remorseful and Adam Sharp, for Mialkowski said: "He has been realistic about the sentence he will receive and appreciates his actions were abhorrent."

Each defendant was ordered to pay £100 victim surcharge.

Life saving skills in Llanmaes

CPR and defibrillator training will take place on Monday, April 14 at St Cattwg's Village Hall, Llanmaes, Vale of Glamorgan.

The session starts at 7pm til 9pm, and is free. Children 10 years and above are also welcome to attend with their parents.

The charity Welsh Hearts, in partnership with The Welsh Ambulance Service, aims to equip people with emergency vital life saving skills and the knowledge and actions that could save a life.

Training will be given in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuitation), a first aid technique that is a combination of rescue breaths and chest compressions, and on how to use a defibrillator.

To book a place or find out where further classes are held, contact Welsh Hearts on 02920 786521 or email fundraising@welshhearts.org.

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LEIGH OPENS CHARITY'S HYDROTHERAPY POOL

ABOVE: Ty Hafan pool opening: Leigh Halfpenny cuts the ribbon.

Making a splash in the new poool.

IT was smiles all round when Tŷ Hafan ambassador Leigh Halfpenny officially opened the charity's new state-of-the art hydrotherapy pool.

The facility provides life-limited children, young people and their families with a fantastic environment for therapy, communication, socialisation and play. It is fully equipped with disco and sensory lights as well as speakers for music, and also includes hoists to help children enter and exit the pool.

The rugby star was thrilled to cut the ribbon in front of families and staff members who couldn't wait to use the facility.

Jayne Saunders, director of care at Tŷ Hafan, said: "We are delighted that Leigh took the time to officially open our new hydrotherapy pool and it was wonderful for our supporters to see how their donations have made such a difference to the families we support."

GROUP'S AGM

THE Llantwit Major Events Group is holding its AGM for 7pm on Friday, April 11 in the Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major.

Send proposals for discussion and/or nominations for committee posts to the secretary, Charles Allen at charlesian_allen@yahoo.co.uk or Allenc978.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Out and About with The GEM

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BON JOVI is now re-created in theatres by the sensational Bon Jovi Experience.

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The only tribute band in the world to have shared the stage with the actual band, this show includes all the hits - *Livin' On A Prayer*, *You Give Love A Bad Name*, *Keep The Faith*, *Bed Of Roses*, *Always*, *Bad Medicine*, *It's My Life*, and many, many more.

"The best tribute I have ever seen" – Jon Bon Jovi. Catch them at Barry Memo Arts Centre on Friday, April 11 - 01446 738622.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA

Llancarfan jumble sale

THE Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club will hold its top drawer jumble sale at Llancarfan Community Hall on April 5, at 1.30pm. All proceeds to charity, including Air Ambulance.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, April 6 at 2.30pm, 'Countryside north of Cowbridge', starting at Cowbridge Town Hall car park.

On Tuesday, April 8 at 1.30pm, 'A hamlet and country park', starting at Rhoose Toby Carvery, Port Road West, Barry.

On Wednesday, April 9 at 10.30am, 'Over the common', starting at the Fox and Hounds car park, St Brides Major.

Also on April 9 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at 10.30am at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

Watch AGM

THE Vale Neighbourhood Watch holds its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 9 in Barry Fire Station at 6.30pm, and any member is welcome to attend.

Floral meeting

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers' Club's next meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday, April 9 in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Pat Llewellyn will give a demonstration entitled 'Mix-a-Me'. All are invited.

AM's surgeries

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding three advice surgeries.

On Friday, April 4 he will be in Pyle Life Centre from 2pm to 3pm; he will then be at Morriston library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and Gorseinon library from 5pm to 6pm.

No appointment is necessary.

Coffee morning

A SPRING coffee morning in aid of the RNLI will be held at All Saints Church Hall, Penarth, on Saturday, April 5 from 10.30am to midday.

There will be a bottle stall, bric-a-brac, jewellery, cakes and savouries for sale and there will be a raffle.

Entry is £1 to include coffee and biscuits.

Coffee morning

THERE will be a coffee morning at Llantwit Major Bowls Club on Saturday, April 5 from 10am to 12pm.

The entrance will be £3 to include a cup of tea/coffee and biscuit and a free top-up.

There will be a cake stall, book stall, bric-a-brac and a raffle. All are welcome.

History meeting

THE next meeting of Dinas Powys Local History Society will be held on Tuesday, April 8 in Kynance Hall at 7.30pm.

There will be a talk by Phil Bowen on 'Carisbrooke Castle'. A fee of £3 for non-members and £1.50 for members will be charged. Enquiries to Betty Williams 02920 513524.

Medium

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church is holding a special evening of clairvoyance on Wednesday, April 9 with medium Bernie Scott from Bristol.

Doors open at 6.30pm. Service starts 7pm. Admission £5. All proceeds to the renovation of the church.

Art Society's next meeting

ON Thursday, April 10, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes acclaimed Monmouth artist, author and tutor Debbie Devauden (*www.debbiedevauden.co.uk*), who will give a demonstration of botanical drawing/painting.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge 7pm–9pm, and visitors and new members are most welcome. For details of the society's activities see *www.cowbridgeartsociety.com*.

Tenovus charity quiz evening

BARRY Friends of Tenovus will be holding a quiz night on Friday, April 11 at Barry Athletic Bowls Club, Barry Island.

Supper included in the ticket price £6. Suggest teams of six. This commences at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Mary – 01446 733978.

Musical auditions

MASTERCLASS workshops will be held at the Memo Arts Centre on Friday, April 25 to find the cast for a summer musical, *Hairspray*.

Session 1: 10am – 12pm, age 13 – 16; session 2: 1pm – 3pm, a second age 13 – 16; session 3: 4pm – 6pm, age 17 plus.

The casting call- backs will take place at the Memo on Friday May 2 (5pm – 8pm).

For more information and to book, go to www.memoartscentre.co.uk

Antiques fair

THERE will be an antique and collectors fair at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, on Saturday, April 12 from 10am to 4pm.

It will feature quality stands, new and regular dealers. Telephone 01446 79628 or 01446 713483 for more details.

Chance to win £25! Enter the GEM's weekly facebook competition...

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D820.

- **£2,000:** 241456.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £8,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 987255, 618781, 815135, 897602, 845182, 771883, 714425, 379323, 714036, 222776, 423345, 303559, 913052, 800517, 650039, 141690, 358326, 371980, 783835, 493996.
- **£5:** 428666, 755492, 595098, 881695, 621431, 789730, 165623, 717057, 713233, 253726, 111647, 418673, 658802, 588090, 612174, 604408, 466074, 805861, 672260, 894127, 872377, 497080, 478884, 701727, 699620, 204994, 210368, 533939, 217071, 503445, 344914, 840802, 160751, 190752, 230523, 494477, 638136, 520602, 348048, 100307, 740872, 715469, 681590, 569442, 299138, 546194, 280653, 230395, 866816, 779965, 458759, 871320, 659617, 217339, 417707, 717762, 202273.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Macmillan advice

MACMILLAN Cancer Support's mobile service will be offering information and support to people affected by cancer at Kings Square, Barry, from 10am to 4pm on Monday, April 7.

No appointment is necessary and everyone is welcome.

To find out more how you can help, call 0300 1000 200 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising.

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The Winter Soldier entertains... BUT LACKS MARVEL-LOUS PUNCH!

by GARETH JAMIESON
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THERE are very few certainties in this world, but Marvel Studios' dominance of the superhero genre is one of them.

With a seeming licence to print money, and with more characters set to make their filmic debuts, including the *Guardians of Galaxy* and *Ant-Man*, their success shows no signs of abating.

Next up for the studio is a sequel to *Captain America,* subtitled *The Winter Soldier*. Picking up where the events of *The Avengers* left off, it sees the Captain (Chris Evans) working for S.H.I.E.L.D. alongside Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson); but when a face from the Captain's past comes seeking vengeance, and with the shadowy Alexander Pierce (Robert Redford) keeping his eye on S.H.I.E.L.D.'s activities, the Captain and his S.H.I.E.L.D. teammates are put under deadly pressure...

If Marvel Studios have a weakness it appears to be their sequels; *Iron Man 2* was something of a damp squib (resolved by the one-two punch of *The Avengers* and *Iron Man 3*), while Thor's second outing lacked the wonder and spark of the first film.

Captain America: The Winter Soldier bucks the trend by creating a film that improves upon its progenitor, but even then it never really soars as you hope it would, the end product entertaining and enjoyable but just lacking that final punch to really wow.

It's arguably the most mature Marvel film to date, superheroes magnified through the prism of a 1970s conspiracy movie, something that may travel a little over the head of the younger members of the audience, although they are compensated by the action set-pieces; the film's opening sequence, set on a S.H.I.E.L.D. boat hijacked by terrorists, sets the level of seriousness and indicates that however fantastical the universe, this is a story grounded in the real world.

The themes explored by the script are ones that are prevalent in the audience's lives – the threat of terror, the actions of those put in place to safeguard the public, and the notion of where the line is drawn and when it's okay to cross it.

It's heavy stuff for what is ostensibly a film about costumed heroes, but it works incredibly well, the film nailing the balance of action and exposition well, and mixing style and substance. It's a shame that once the story reaches tipping point it descends into type – the twists that could have gone anywhere tend to match expectation, and the rich depth of the story gives way to a somewhat predictable climax.

It is this that is most disappointing, particularly when the opening two acts make anything seem possible, only for your expectations to be simply met come the end; this isn't a gigantic bugbear, more one that puts something of a dampener on the film overall.

The Russo brothers show a wonderful touch in their first action outing, having predominantly helmed comedies; there is a touch of nerves in some of the set-pieces, the editing and camerawork moving a little too quickly, but they mine the conspiracy feel of the story for a visually strong piece of work that is impressive.

Performance-wise, you get what you expect; Chris Evans shows a warmth, humour and stoicism as Captain America, the 'man-out-of-time' characterisation making way for a man whose agreement with the actions of his superiors is cloudy at best, while newcomer to the franchise Antony Mackie makes a decent fist of the character of Sam Wilson, someone who becomes a valuable ally to the Cap, and Sebastian Stan offers a pleasing turn and some depth as the titular soldier.

Samuel L Jackson enjoys a meatier role as Nick Fury, and Robert Redford shows his class as Alexander Pierce, but Scarlett Johansson, despite being given more depth than she's had previously in terms of her character, turns in an imbalanced performance; physically impressive, she never seems to really grasp the character's weight in an unusually middling turn for the (usually very good) actress.

While there is plenty to enjoy here, the overriding feeling of *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* is of a satisfying film that was capable of more but didn't quite get there. With box office glory assured, you would hope for a more daring effort; that it goes part of the way to doing this, only to pull the rug at the end, makes it merely good rather than great.

VERDICT – Another success story for Marvel Studios, albeit one that had the potential to be even better than it is, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* won't disappoint but feels like something of a missed opportunity. Well made and creating an interesting new landscape for further adventures of the Marvel heroes, it will undoubtedly entertain – but will probably leave you wanting more. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Avengers* (2012), *All The Presidents Men* (1976).

WHAT'S ON In brief

Watch AGM

THE Vale Neighbourhood Watch holds its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 9 in Barry Fire Station at 6.30pm, and any member is welcome to attend.

Floral meeeting

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers' Club's next meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday, April 9 in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Pat Llewellyn will give a demonstration entitled 'Mix-a-Me'. All are invited.

AM's surgeries

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding three advice surgeries.

On Friday, April 4 he will be in Pyle Life Centre from 2pm to 3pm; he will then be at Morriston library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and Gorseinon library from 5pm to 6pm.

No appointment is necessary.

Coffee morning

A SPRING coffee morning in aid of the RNLI will be held at All Saints Church Hall, Penarth, on Saturday, April 5 from 10.30am to midday.

There will be a bottle stall, bric-a-brac, jewellery, cakes and savouries for sale and there will be a raffle.

Entry is £1 to include coffee and biscuits.

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National Pet Month 2014

1st April to 5th May

Care 4 Pets - where there is a wide range of services

WHETHER you need your dog walked, or boarded in a family home, your cat visited, someone to live in your home to care for your pets, your dog groomed or pet supplies, then Park Crescent in Barry is the place to go.

Care 4 Pets offers a range of services to help with pet care, whether you are going on holiday or simply need your dog walked or your cat fed.

In addition, Sleek & Chic Grooming Parlour offers a full grooming service for your dog. With a team of experienced groomers, your dog is in good hands and, if you want your dog to look a little different, we can add a few touches by way of beads, feathers or vegetable based colour to add a finishing touch.

Finally, pop next door to the salon to My Favourite Pet Shop for your pet supplies.

This new pet shop offers a range of food from Nature's Diet, a raw food, Burns, Royal Canin, James Wellbeloved, Lily's Kitchen, Fish4dogs and other specialist foods not available in supermarkets.

You will also find toys for all types of pets, small animal food, bird supplies and wild bird food and feeders.

Whether you want doggie bling or a good quality collar and lead you will find it here, and if you can't they are more than happy to order any product for you with quick delivery.

Call just one number 01446 744633 for further information and like each business on Facebook for updates and offers. Why go anywhere else?

AM

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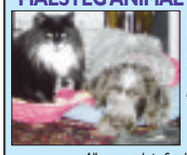

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Are you an animal lover?

MAWS is a small local charity that helps and rehomes hundreds of unwanted pets each year.

The society is run entirely by volunteers. Although we are based in Maesteg, we work throughout south Wales to find good homes for cats, kittens, dogs and puppies.

We also help people on low income with vet's bills and neutering their pets.

Each year, we need to raise at least £50,000 to continue our work. We do this through donations, and through our charity shops based in Maesteg and Nantymoel.

We also organise fundraising events.

How can you help? We need people to help in many different ways: Perhaps you could help out in our charity shops, by supplying good quality clothing and bric-a-brac?

Could you serve in our shops if you have an hour or two to spare? Or help us run fundraising events?

If that is not possible, you might like to make a donation to help us with our work.

Become a member of our society for a minimum fee of just £2 per person.

For further information, contact 01656 721496.

Cementing the bond between pet and owner

EVERY now and then dogs and their owners' need a little help with communication, respect and even first aid, and that is where the Blue Ridge Canine Academy comes in.

The Academy, based at Rhoose Point, Vale of Glamorgan, helps owners and their dogs with socialisation and obedience training for young and adult dogs, as well as behaviour modification – from excessive barking through to aggression problems, and so much more – to help make both human and canine cement their bond and live harmoniously and happily together.

The Academy achieves this through classes and workshops, where through positive reinforcement, owners are assisted in maintaining their position within their newly-formed pack, and are able to both understand and communicate with their dogs.

Now, the Academy will be offering canine first aid, taught by accredited pet first aider, Stuart Kemp, for all people working with dogs in any professional capacity, as well as private owners.

The intensive course prepares owners to take quick and confident action in an emergency, and focuses on the most common dog-related accidents.

"All of the knowledge that you will learn on this course can be applied to any animal, no matter what the size, and can make a massive difference to keeping them safe."

The classes are due to start imminently, as the venue is arranged.

Toni added: "We know most people will want to do this course on weekends, as it is for a whole day, so we are looking to make sure we can offer this to people. We urge people to keep an eye on our website or on social media for updates on when these courses will begin."

For updates on courses, contact the Bridge Ridge Canine Academy on 01446 719 898 or 07715 008 454, or email info@blueridgeacademy.co.uk.

Vale illustrator's first children's book is attracting attention!

A LOCAL illustrator is enjoying great success with her first children's book – which was inspired by growing up in the Vale countryside!

Emma Levey grew up in the Vale, surrounded by animals at the Little Mill Cattery, Llanvithyn Mill, Llancarfan, and she drew on this experience when she planned her book, entitled *Hattie Peck*.

The talented illustrator put together a storyline around the adventures, trials and tribulations of a chicken – the aforementioned Hattie.

Hattie sets off in search of lost or abandoned eggs, and Emma's illustrations really bring the story to life.

She had an added bonus when the BBC singled it out and gave a favourable review, and Emma told The GEM that the book is currently the best-selling children's book in Harrods.

Hattie Peck is available from Amazon and from all good book shops.

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SINCE opening in June 2012, this lovely salon in the Vale, has become increasingly popular thanks to a friendly, one to one quality service provided by professional K9 beauticians, Kath and Jo.

All breeds are catered for in a clean, safe professional environment. The salon is open plan, so you can see how much your pet enjoys their grooming.

So, if your precious pooch is in need of a pamper, call Posh Pawz for an appointment and put a spring in their step!

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Ian has experience in animal psychology and pet care and has previous experience of working in kennels.

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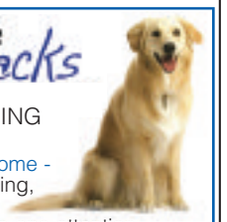

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Support group's next meeting

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, April 8 11am – 1pm.

Telephone Gaynor for more details on 01446 733315.

PACT meetings

COWBRIDGE PACT at Cowbridge Fire Station on Monday, April 14 at 11am.

COFFEE AND CHAT at The Six Bells, Penmark, on Tuesday, April 22 at 11am.

COFFEE AND CHAT at The Red Fox, Penllyn, on Wednesday, April 23 at 11am.

ST AUGUSTINE PACT at The Windsor Arms, Penarth, on Wednesday, April 23 at 7pm.

Vale planning

Mrs Lucy Payne – **Elaine Jones Interiors, 4 Wine Street, Llantwit Major** – The building is currently being used as an office/shop. I propose to change this to a coffee shop, with a view to selling hot and cold food for consumption both on and off the premises; opening times would be 8am-5pm Monday to Friday and 8am-2pm on Saturday (closed on Sunday).

Mr Francis Kennett – **Ty Frandy, Curnix Farm, Moulton** – To create a driveway entrance to main property; currently the only access to the property is via a shared gravel driveway, which is unsuitable for proper access. The new driveway will entail removing approximately 6m of hedgerow and excavation of soil to form driveway.

Mrs Michelle Proctor – **11 King Street, Penarth** – Two and single storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs Nadeem Amin – **8 Glas y Llwyn, Barry** – Extension at first floor level to form a new bedroom and alter existing first floor layout, incorporating new windows.

Mr Wayne Davies – **The Grange, Llancarfan** – Lawful development certificate for proposed garage conversion.

Mrs Amy Owen – **Trosfaen, Windmill Lane, Llanblethian** – Front and rear attic extensions.

Mr David Jenkins – **3 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Conversion of existing (dilapidated) detached garage into habitable space including link to existing house, plus associated works.

Live a life of adventure

BY MARIA LEIJERSTAM

DOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.

Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

Adventure in Patagonia.

What perfect timing; the clocks went forward and out came the sun!

I for one am certainly in need of some defrosting after spending a month in Antarctica this winter at minus 40 degrees.

To get you started this week I thought I'd take you to a favourite place of mine where I spent many weekends last summer. On this challenge, two or three brains are better than one, so when you have a free hour, grab a few members of your family or friends and head down to Cosmeston Lakes Country Park in Penarth (open daily from 8.30am-6.30pm).

Go to reception and ask for an orienteering map. It costs £2.20 to hire a map for the day. There is a choice of course lengths from 2km – 4km so now all you need to do is find the check points.

A compass is not vital but you may wish to use one to ensure your map is pointing North. Remember, being lost is part of the adventure! Always look out for obvious landmarks; the big blue patch on the map is water, which is the most obvious of them all.

It's a good idea to discuss route options with your team, as there is usually more than one way. In competitive orienteering, the fastest team to complete the whole course is the winner so you might want to set yourself a target time to complete the course.

When you've achieved your challenge, take some time to enjoy the view and keep an eye out for the beautiful swans.

Set yourself the challenge and let us know how you got on, log onto www.burnseries.co.uk/youradventure for more details.

This picture above was taken in Patagonia in 2013 during a 10-day adventure race where we had to rely heavily on our navigation to get us through this almost impassible terrain. We also had to work closely as a team to maintain morale after the 100th kilometre!

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures.

Footnote

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going.

Maria Leijerstam

Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

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MARIA LEIJERSTAM

Choral society's joint concert

LAST Saturday, March 29, Cowbridge Choral Society joined Pontypridd Choral Society for their spring concert in the Temple Baptist Church, Gelliwastad Road, Pontypridd.

The programme, which consisted of two works, the Messa di Gloria by Puccini and the Messe Solonnelle by Gounod, was conducted by Jeff Ryan.

The soloists were Iona Jones (soprano), Huw Rhys-Evans (tenor) and Adam Gilbert (baritone), with organ accompaniment by Jonathan Gulliford.

Puccini composed his Mass at the age of 18 and the first performance took place in 1880, although it was not performed again for some 70 years.

The Gounod Mass is near perfect in its lyrical beauty and is one of the great accomplishments in western music with the obvious joy and awe it portrays for divine mystery and promise.

An enthusiastic audience was very appreciative of the efforts of both choirs and soloists, and the conducting ability of Jeff Ryan.

Cowbridge Choral Society will now begin rehearsals for the next concert, which will be in October. More information about the Society is available at cowbridgechoralsociety.co.uk.

New members are always welcome, and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place in the United Reform Church, Westgate Street every Thursday at 7.30pm. ***PG***

Don't just take our word for it...

JRC JEWELLERY

The Glamorgan GEM

JRC JEWELLERY OF COWBRIDGE were so pleased with the response from their initial front page advertising in The GEM, they now place an advert every week.

Jonathan Mahoney, proprietor, said: "Since opening the shop in Cowbridge, we have tried a few different mediums for advertising. The GEM has definitely shown itself to be the most effective in generating sales and footfall into the shop."

For Cowbridge businesses requiring more information on how The GEM can help you, call Kathryn Jones on 01446 774484 or E-Mail: kathryn.jones@tindlenews.co.uk

GEM columnist's book is reprinted

GEM columnist Brian Lee, who was brought up in the Cathays area of Cardiff, is delighted that The History Press has reprinted his book *Cathays, Maindy, Mynachdy And Gabalfa – The Second Selection*.

Brian said: "When I compiled the first Cathays, Maindy, Gabalfa and Mynachdy book, it sold 900 copies in the first two weeks and made it to the Western Mail's top 10 best-seller list for two weeks running which was amazing as on that list were books by such authors as Trollope, Cornwell and Ackroyd.'"

He added: "This second selection was first published in 2000 and it goes to show that there is still a market for these local history picture books.'"

The book costs £12.99 and is available from all good bookshops.

PETERSTON PUPILS' SURPRISE 'FLASH MOB' PERFORMANCE

PUPILS at Peterston-super-Ely C-I-W Primary School had a rehearsal with a difference when they performed a surprise' flash mob' on the playground.

Practicing for their performance in the Best Foot Forward at Barry Memorial Hall on March 19, they gave their school friends a surprise sneak preview of their dance moves.

The brain child of teacher Mr Camilleri, together with teaching assistants, Miss Hall and Mrs Pitcock, the children pretended they were going about their usual playtime activities when music began playing and they began dancing in their planned routine.

Mr Camilleri explained: "It was a bit of fun really, but it gave the children a taste of performing for an audience. The great reaction they had from all their friends meant their confidence was boosted going into the actual event."

For more information about the school, go to www.peterstonprimary.net.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. ***Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number.*** An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Nothing sustainable about Colwinston housing development

I WOULD like to follow up on Paul Jeremy's letter in last week's GEM regarding the damaging planning applications being made for large scale housing development in various Vale rural villages.

Already Ystradowen has fallen to one such application that has received planning permission, and it looks like Colwinston is the next in line.

What is difficult to understand is how such sites passed the Sustainability Assessment Objectives in the first place to appear in the Draft LDP. Colwinston is a designated conservation village of some 155 dwellings, where Redrow propose to build 62 houses on a site known to have drainage and flooding problems.

The village has a primary school, pub, church and village hall. There are no shops or other services, all of which are located between 5-8 kilometres away in either Cowbridge or Bridgend.

Utility services are working to capacity. Indeed, the sewerage system is already failing and raw sewage can discharge into the local brook and onto the highway.

There is no scheduled bus service, no local employment and the additional 100 or so cars leaving the village along narrow lanes would travel against the school run traffic flow. Site access is immediately next to the school entrance with a sharp bend on the other side – an accident waiting to happen!

Yet against this background the LDP planners and, of course, the developer, deem the village to be a sustainable environment enough to cope with a 40 per cent increase in the size of the village, even given the physical constraints and lack of community infrastructure.

The proposed development clearly breaches many sections of Welsh planning policy that are there to protect minor rural settlements and does not comply with the Vale Council's own policies (particularly Policy MD 6) in relation to development within minor rural settlements.

It will also have an adverse effect on the conservation area.It should be noted that one of the main criticisms and concerns by the Welsh Government of the Draft LDP 2013 was the over-development of rural villages.

In respect of housing allocations, it said "the services and facilities in many minor rural villages themselves appear poor"; "Allocations in some minor rural settlements appear disproportionate to current services and facilities." and "the proposed spatial distribution could potentially encourage reliance on the car and compound infrastructure problems in rural locations".

If the planning application for Colwinston is approved, I can see little hope for St Nicholas, Bonvilston, Wick and other Vale villages.

Brian Kennard,
Colwinston.

Don't blame the Tories for cuts

IN his letters to The GEM over the last two weeks, Mr G Smith highlights the savage cuts to Welsh funding.

What a shame he forgot to mention why the cuts have been necessary.

And it's not just Wales that has had cuts to its funding, the rest of the country has also suffered similar cuts.

Yes, Wales has since 2010, a period of three years, lost £1.7 billion in funding, but it has also received over the same period £800 million in other funding, some of which was intended for the sole purpose of freezing council tax; £22 million was actually used by social services to pay the council tax of people on benefits, well, at least their council tax was frozen!

Perhaps if our councils actually collected the £85 million of unpaid council tax, we could have negated the increases.

In Westminster, the last Labour government was fortunate enough to inherit a healthy economy from the Conservatives. However, they sold our gold reserve, robbed our pension funds and then borrowed even more.

On top of that, they actively encouraged immigration, putting an immense strain on our schools, the NHS, etc. The end result of which is a national debt on a scale never seen before in this country.

In Wales, the Labour government has failed to pass several audits, it squanders £100s of millions of our taxes on failed/overpriced projects, eg the military academy at St Athan, the Red Dragon Hangar, Cardiff Airport/the airport bus service, etc.

In south Wales, the Labour government is also spending tens of millions on building under-used Welsh speaking schools at the expense of English speaking schools.

So, Mr Smith, in the real world, people know who to blame for the savage cuts – it's Labour, not the Conservatives.

Gordon Wilkie
LM Conservative

The Vale needs more imaginative local planning

THE article by Phillip Irwin entitled 'Could Llandow Newydd still find favour with Council planners?' is very much to the point, but the answer will certainly be 'No' as our council has little truck with creative planning.

The general rule is that "more of the same" is their most adventurous principle.

The written statement of the LDP accurately describes the character of the Vale as comprising a small number of larger towns: Penarth, Llantwit Major, Dinas Powys and Cowbridge (containing 76 per cent of the total population) plus a large number of small villages and hamlets containing the rest.

The towns, of course, are important and contain significant pressures that must be addressed. But the defining character of the Vale is in its villages.

The great majority of proposed development is to "reinforce the role and function of the key settlement of Barry, the service centres, primary settlements and minor rural settlements."

Development is proposed adjacent to existing housing in the very places most likely to provoke opposition and rage among established citizens.

If they bothered to look at their own analysis, it might have occurred to them that another strategy would be to increase the number of villages.

Llandow is an obvious example but there are many other possible locations in the rural Vale, including some near to motorway junctions and railway lines.

An entirely new settlement offers the opportunity to create a community, not just a housing estate. Pressure can be taken off existing services, a more sustainable form of development may accrue and a coherent approach to design is possible, learning from the model of our well-loved existing villages.

A critical mass can bring effective affordable housing in tandem with a housing association.

A challenge should be issued for the most creative scheme with a feasible business plan. If you think about it, it could be "more of the same" but without the acrimony. It is not a utopian dream.

Jim Grove (retired architect/planner), Cowbridge.

Wind turbine too big – and it's in the wrong place

THE recent planning application on behalf of Mr Andrew RT Davies, AM, for the installation of a 500 KVA wind turbine, substation and access road on his land at Garn Farm on the south side of the A48 gives me much cause for concern.

The proposed wind-powered turbine will have a blade height of 99.5m (approximately half the height of the St Hilary mast) and be visible over a radius of 30 km.

It would be located on prime agricultural land presenting an obtrusive structure despoiling the magnificent views to the coast across this area of the Vale landscape.

Its location would also have the potential to set a precedent for further development within this and the surrounding areas.

I am fully recognisant of the need for green energy, current government policy in these matters and the need for alternative sources of electrical supply.

As a professional engineer, I am also knowledgeable on the pros and cons of electrical generation by wind power and the advantageous influences of the enormous subsidies and generous feed in tariffs available.

Such considerations and discussions do not, however, influence my concerns and opinions expressed in this letter.

It is the location and its impact on the local environment which has been vigorously protected over the years and would now, in my opinion, be ruined and despoiled should planning consent be granted.

I hope that by your publishing this letter, attention may be drawn to those readers who are not aware of this application – and those who may have an interest in preserving the beauty, character and scenery of the rural Vale would write to the Vale planners and their local MP, to express their concerns and raise objections to the proposed location.

DH Daniels, St Hilary.

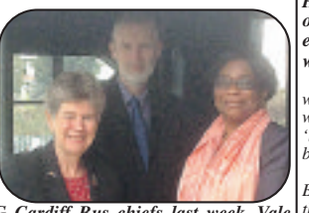
No to St Hilary wind turbine

WITH reference to the article by Philip Irwin (The Cowbridge GEM) March 27 regarding the possible erection of a new wind turbine, I, as a local resident in close proximity to the proposed development, concur with most of the comments made.

However, it must be considered that farmers are being urged to diversify and that green energy is desirable. I trust, however, that the application currently submitted to the local planning authority for 'planning permission to erect a single renewable energy wind turbine' will be rejected on the grounds that good agricultural land in this part of the Vale is not a suitable location for this type of development and that a precedent for further development for more wind turbines on agricultural land is not to be encouraged.

Name and address supplied.

Vale AM meets Cardiff Bus chiefs



Jane Hutt, Cynthia Ogbonna and Peter Heath from Cardiff Bus

MEETING Cardiff Bus chiefs last week, Vale AM Jane Hutt made clear her view that Cardiff Bus services are vital to Barry and the wider area.

Welcoming the decision to safeguard the 98 service in Barry, she said it was very important that Cardiff Bus served the Vale to attract and keep their bus passengers.

She said: "We have successfully campaigned to keep essential Cardiff Bus services in Barry and it is vital that Cardiff Bus attracts and keeps bus passengers in the Vale which they serve. That was my message when I met Cardiff Bus chiefs for a positive and constructive meeting."

Improving pictures

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

WE all make an effort to improve our digital photographs with a varying amount of success.

Guy has been doing it for years and came to show us some ways to go from so-so to superb. It requires a capable photo-editing programme, a degree of experience and a certain amount of painstaking patience to get there.

Guy spends a lot of time making his improvements and uses an expensive programme, but you can start quietly and see how you go.

Some programmes are completely free – and quite useful for making many considerable straightforward improvements.

Then, if you develop a taste for it, you can always invest in better programmes and equipment later. The degree of dedication and the amount of patience and time devoted to it is up to you. It can pay big dividends.

The basic material to work with comes from your camera or scanner. Naturally, the better they are the better the end result from the (more) information captured.

Cameras catch the information for you in RAW mode. It usually processes this to reduce the file size into JPG or TIFF formats and in the process some information is discarded.

Serious photographers prefer to work with the entire RAW data for better control, but that will come only if you get really involved.

Meantime, get used to taking lots of shots, even of the same subject, as some will prove to be better than the others. Choose the ones you want to keep (and make copies for backup, of course).

For editing, work only on copies. That way if anything goes wrong you can start again with a fresh copy.

After selecting one from a series on the same subject, Guy started by introducing us to layers. These are like see-through sheets of cellophane. Working only on these allows you to leave the background picture unchanged.

At any time you can view the state of progress towards the end product by looking at the picture though the layers. This is known as non-destructive editing and is recommended.

As Guy talked us through what he was doing, layers were used to eliminate flaws; crop the picture; edit out distracting features and change the intensity of colours.

Judicious use of framing, coupled with 'feathering' (where sharp changes are graduated between areas) allowed him to produce a pleasing vignette effect typical of old family photographs.

He then used similar techniques to enhance a picture of foliage. For a picture of a young lady he exchanged a messy, complicated background for a more attractive one.

Just for fun, he created a compilation of some surreal effects within a view of an internal corridor or colonnade.

Finally, he recreated a beautiful view of a road alongside a canal by incorporating major features from several sources, introducing colour and an interesting sky.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday April 8 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm for 8pm. Visitors always welcome. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

HOWARD DESMOND

Choir performs Handel's classic

WHEN St Donats Atlantic Chorale perform Handel's Messiah on Saturday, April 12, not only will they be celebrating five years of entertaining audiences in the Vale but also, they will be setting a 272-year-old record straight.

When Messiah (probably the most popular choral work ever written) was due to premiere in 1742 – it was billed to be performed on April 12. However 'local people of distinction' requested it be deferred by a day.

A warm welcome awaits all who might flock to Bradenstoke Hall to join the choir's celebrations as they perform this famous and popular oratorio for the first time.

Conducted by Carl Grainger and accompanied by Opus 8 Ensemble and celebrated guest soloists, the choir will perform Messiah at 7.30pm on Saturday April 12. Tickets are available from St Donats Arts Centre box office on 01446 799100 and online via www.stdonats.com.

The choir would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us over the past five years and attended our concerts. If interested in joining the choir or supporting our performances, contact Gwenda Williams on 07774 215 062 for more information.

Local drama students receive their awards

The infants and juniors.

The senior section.

Seren Morris receives the infants award.

Bethany Barrell with the senior award.

IT has been an exciting nine months for Stage Door 1 Youth Theatre with three successful performances under their belt, *Mulan*, *Les Miserables* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

However, there is no time for students to stand still as they are already working hard on two new productions for the coming year.

The infant and junior students are putting on a production of *The Little Mermaid* in May and the senior students are tackling *Jesus Christ Superstar* in October.

Last Saturday, March 29, an awards ceremony was held in the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major. Award winners included: Seren Morris (infants); Heidi Charlton (juniors) and Bethany Barrell (seniors).

Finally, Aaron Ashley Perks was awarded the Eve Darby Memorial Award in recognition of exceptional achievement and contribution to the philosophy of the group.

Mike Peters, director at Stage Door 1, also presented awards to his production team, Alison, Helen and Sebastian for the qualities that they bring to the team.

For further information, contact Mike on 07944 607003 or *mike@stagedoor1.co.uk*.

Fran Davies

372 Barry Squadron at RNAS Yeovilton museum.

CADETS' VISIT TO THE FLEET AIR ARM MUSEUM

RECENTLY, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, travelled to the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton to see the amazing Fleet Air Arm Museum.

The museum contains Europe's largest collection of naval aviation aircraft and represents the flying arm of the Royal Navy.

The exhibition spanned four large halls and included aircraft from early bi-planes through to the more formidable modern era. The museum also allowed the cadets to learn more about the theory of flight and propulsions.

The cadets looked around the first British-built Concorde and the Fairey Delta 2, which was the first aircraft to fly at more than 1,000mph.

The cadets also learnt about the 1982 Falklands exhibition and saw actual aircraft that operated during the campaign including the Sea Harrier, Sea King, Wessex and Augusta helicopters.

The highlight of the visit included the 'Aircraft Carrier Experience'.

Cadet Keiren Bushell said: "It was a great museum with so much to see and do during our day there. I spent all my pocket money on model aircraft to build at home."

The Cadets who attended were: Kieren and Dominic Bushell, Thomas Browning, Steph Jones, Georgina and Zena Poulakis, Pippa Cowles, Gethin Lodge, Ross Clarke, Alex Cheeseley, Rhys Williams, Rhys Lewis, Nathan Thompson, Alex Spragg and Jordan Saunders.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734, email 372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org.

JH

Pippa Cowles and Zena Poulakis.

Zena Poulakis with her painted model ship.

HOW CARDIFF CHARITY SAVES LIVES OF MOTHERS IN AFRICA

AT the March meeting of Llanmaes WI, the speaker was Angela Gorman, the founder of the charity 'Life for African Mothers'.

Angela is a truly amazing and inspirational woman who in 2006, after watching a television programme on the lifetime risk of death in pregnancy of one in seven African women, decided that something must be done. She co-founded the charity and works tirelessly in an increasing number of African countries to make a difference to pregnant women.

The results have been astounding and the members were told that, because of the work of the charity, in some fatal complications a woman's life could be saved for less than the price of a first class postage stamp.

To encourage women to attend the clinics, the charity, based in Cardiff, collects and distributes baby clothes. Details can be found on their website *www.lifeforafricanmothers.org*.

Jan Waskett presented some baby clothes to Angela Gorman at the meeting. Llanmaes WI meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Llanmaes Village Hall at 7.30pm, where all new members are welcome.

ED

Jan Waskett with Angela Gorman

Chamber music in Coed Hills

BEETHOVEN, Mendelssohn and Schumann Chamber music will be performed by the Bristol Ensemble with Susan Bird (piano) at Coed Hills Rural Artspace, St Hilary, Cowbridge, CF71 7DP.

The recital will be followed by tea and cakes. Tickets, (adults £7.50, children free), can be booked from Rawley Clay on 07969 563638 or email rawlington@googlemail.com.

FROM YOUNG MUSICAL TALENT TO DEDICATED LOCAL VOLUNTEERS...

COWBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY

by Coun Gwen Baty

AS I near the end of my mayoral year I still have enjoyable experiences to share with you.

The first was on Monday, March 24, when my consort and I went to St David's Hall to a concert given by children from the primary schools of Cardiff and the Vale.

The programme was varied, showing the many talents the children have. The first item was a beginners' percussion group. They played as if they had been together for a very long time, certainly not like beginners!

Next came the junior schools' harp ensemble. The harps, although half size, were bigger than most of the artists! It was good to recognise children from Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg playing. I am so glad to see so many young girls and boys learning to play our national instrument.

A primary music development project came next, a great fun item with lots of budding ukelele players, followed by the junior schools' choir. They treated us to music from *Neverland* and from *The Lion King*.

An interval followed and then we had the foundation brass band. They played The Grand March from *Aida* with a cornet soloist and euphonium solo, 'O Sole Mio' from an artist too small to carry the instrument! After two more marches, the brass band handed over to the whole junior schools' orchestra.

We had six items from this orchestra, starting with a rousing 'Men of Harlech' and ending with 'One Day Like This'. We were treated to three soloists, two on violin and one on cello.

The young first violin leader of the orchestra played with such skill and confidence it was difficult to believe that this was her last year in primary school, and she will be entering secondary education next year.

The evening ended with the orchestra, choir and foundation brass band performing together 'World in Union' and the sound of our national anthem being played and sung by them, and the whole audience, was a wonderful experience. It was really hard to believe that these youngsters were still all at primary school.

The following night was the turn of junior and senior music groups to perform for The Lord Mayor's Charity Showcase. We had high schools' brass band, intermediate age percussion, senior guitar ensemble, the primary schools' cluster choir and the transitional wind band to entertain us and that was only in the first half!

After the interval, the youth wind band, the youth choir and the transitional orchestra all performed. Then, all joined together to finish with a rousing performance of Lionel Bart's 'Oom Pah Pah'.

The wonderful music I heard over these two nights was only possible because of the dedication of the music staff in the Cardiff And The Vale of Glamorgan Music Service. They give their time and expertise to develop the skills of the children.

Over a thousand children are having musical experience under their tuition, not only in schools but in rehearsals in the Friary in Cardiff on evenings and weekends, so we owe them a great deal of thanks for keeping a truly great music service alive.

On Thursday night we attended the AGM of the Bridgend Samaritans. This is the group that looks after our area. This branch is incredibly busy, though I am informed that almost all branches have the same workload. In 2013, Bridgend branch had nearly 21,000 contacts, 9,481 by phone, 808 by text and 662 by e-mail.

The main reasons were feeling alone, feeling worthless, sad or angry all the time, being abused, feeling suicidal, job stresses and relationship issues.

There is an outreach team that visits colleges and schools to do workshops, visits Parc prison, goes to Princess of Wales hospital; and volunteers are there for 'Feet on the Street' in Bridgend town centre every Saturday night.

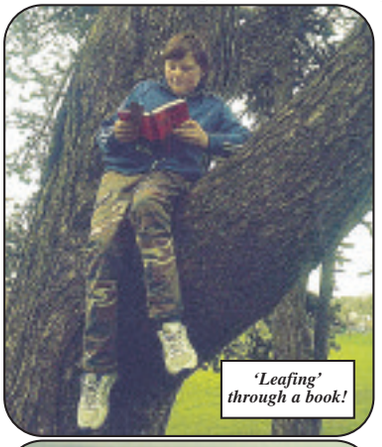
All this unpaid work is done by a dedicated band of volunteers who have had to undergo weeks of intense training sessions. There are 200 volunteers for every paid member of staff in Samaritans.

In addition to all this valuable community work, they are also busy fundraising to keep the system going.

I was so impressed by this organisation. If you were to think of becoming a volunteer this is their advert;

- *£000 per annum.*
- *No promotion prospects.*
- *No company car.*
- *No expense account.*
- *No glamour.*
- *No luncheon vouchers.*
- *Sometimes not even a thank you.*

World Book Day marked with a readathon at Barry Comprehensive



'Leafing' through a book!

Mrs Jones riding a lion!

Winner Mrs Hill chooses a spectacular location to catch up with her reading.

AS part of our World Book Day celebrations the English department launched its annual extreme reading competition.

The entries were numerous and varied as usual – but the winners were announced as Ben Thomas and Ethan Williams for the pupils, and Mrs Marie Hill for the staff.

We were thrilled to announce that over £380 had been raised by the year-7 classes who all took part in a readathon as part of their independent learning last term.

Each year-7 pupil was challenged to read six books in six weeks.

Not only did the majority complete this challenge but many actually exceeded it.

The money raised goes to a variety of charities for children including the Teenage Cancer Trust. At the recent year-7 parents' evening many of the mums, dads and carers commented on how the event had re-enthused their sons about reading.

AC

Maendy young farmers brought some colour to Llandudno recently!

MAENDY YOUNG FARMERS ARE THE ENTERTAINERS!

MAENDY young farmers will feature on an S4C programme this Saturday.

The Wales Young Farmers' Club's Entertainment Feast is one of the biggest events in the club's calendar. Held every three years, it's a colourful competition with plenty of humour and enthusiasm.

Ifan Jones Evans presented this year's event on stage at Llandudno's Venue Cymru and he will introduce highlights, Adloniant y Ffermwyr Ifanc, on S4C Saturday, April 5 at 7.30pm (English subtitles available).

He said: "The weekend is certainly a feast of entertainment. Backstage, it's a hive of activity with people preparing their OTT costumes and make-up and I found out what inspired the shows and characters, as well as enjoying a lot of banter!"

Quiz nights help local charities

Presentation from left to right: Winn Roberts, Sue Sharp, Byron Keylock (quizmaster), Pippa Davies and Jeff Maddox.

Presentation from left to right: Byron Keylock, Pippa Davies and Kelly Davies.

TWO charities benefited from quiz nights at the Jolly Sailor in Newton, Porthcawl.

Cheques for £100 were presented by the manager, Miss Pippa Davies, to Jeff Maddox for Cancer Research UK and Kelly Davies on behalf of Velindre Hospital, Cardiff.

The quiz takes place at the Jolly Sailor every Sunday night.

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE
facebook.com/glamorgangem

Ploughing and Hedging Society event is held on idyllic coast at Ogmore-by-Sea

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

ON Saturday, March 29, the Vale Ploughing and Hedging Society held a competition on the picturesque coast at Ogmore-by-Sea.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' pictorial record of the day there is a touch of artistry to producing a neatly furrowed field!

Tractors of all shapes and sizes took part.

Llantwit meeting on planning sites

THE public consultation on candidate sites put forward by land owners and developers is now taking place and an event is being held in Llantwit Major.

The consultation is being held at the Llantonian Hall on Monday, April 7 from 2pm until 6pm.

Coun Gwyn John told The GEM: "I would urge local residents to go along and see the proposals which will be considered by the Vale Council shortly.

"There are a number of additional sites put forward for development, so residents need to have their say or possibly suffer the consequences."

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
Tel: 01656 725399 • E-Mail: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Y Coleg Dderwern

I WAS recently taken for a tour of this brand new college by James Jarrett, who deals with public relations at the school.

While there, I was taken into an area which had tables with flowers in vases and nice place settings, the hall itself had been decorated with banners and bunting by the students of year-10.

The students under the direction of their teacher Miss Matthews were putting on a hospitality and entertainment event for members of the local community. They had cooked and prepared all the food themselves.

Seventeen members of the community turned up in the afternoon, including three members of Aberkenfig Women's Institute, and thoroughly enjoyed their meal, and thanked the students for their waiting skills during the meal, and the lovely way the food was presented.

Congratulations to these students. It is nice that they are helping to build up a community spirit with the local residents and members of the college.

Tondu primary school

MRS Susan Pilcher, the headteacher, would like to congratulate the following students who were successful in the recent St David's Day competitions, and thanks the parents for the encouragement they had given their children.

Nursery – best leek: first, Harri Reardon; second, Seth Jenkins; third, Jenson Matthews. Nursery – best flag: first, Isabelle Thomas; second, Lilly Parfitt. Reception – best leek: first, Rhys Hopkins; second, Oscar Marsh; third, Finley Williams. Reception – Welsh flag: first, Harley-Seren Terry; second, Isaac Reardon; third, Cariad Evans. Reception – photography: first, Loveday Lock.

Year-1 – best leek: first, Imogen Merrett; second, Mason Walmsley; third, Dylan Lewis. Year 1 – Welsh flag: first, Ffion Seal; second, Joshua Popham; third, Lottie Morgan. Year 1 – photography: first, Imogen Merrett. Year-1 – cookery: first, Joshua Popham.

Year 2 – best leek: first, Bethan Hopkins; second, Fabian Tapner; third, Kacey Floyd. Year-2 – Welsh flag: first, Corey Thomas; second, Macy Mably; third, Daniel Williams. Year 2 – cookery: first, Sophie Barrett.

Year-3 – best leek: first, Ieuan Lane; second, Olivia/Amelia Webb; third, Jessica Evans. Year-3 – Welsh flag: first, Maddie Rose; second, Olivia Herbert; third, Sam Thomas.

Highly Commended – Crystal Bancroft and Leila Carlyon.

Year-3 – photography: first, Jessica Evans; second, Maddie Rose; third, Olivia Herbert. Year-3 – cookery: first, Olivia Herbert; second, Maddie Rose; third, Sophie Tipper.

Year-4 – best leek: first, Tegan Chambers; second, Evie Higgins; third, Jorja Higgins. Year-4 – Welsh flag: first, Keira Hill; second, Dylan Griffiths; third, Harry Gould. Highly Commended: Molly Price. Year-4 – photography: first, Benji Lock; second, Owain Thomas; third, Keira Hill. Year-4 – poem: Highly Commended – Tia Popham and Cleo Tapner. Year-4 – cookery: first, Sasha Flower/Keira Hill; second, Cleo Tapner; third, Tia Popham. Highly Commended: Dylan Griffiths and Cariad Westlake.

Year-5 – best leek: first, Ellie-Mai Davies; second, Lola Brown; third, Amy Brice-Richards. Highly Commended: Caleb Lake. Year 5 – Welsh flag: first, Kelsie Mably; second, Tia Featham; third, Mya Fahey. Year-5 – photography: first, Eeva Salo. Year-5 – cookery: first, Lola Brown; second, Libby Barrett; third, Eeva Salo. Highly Commended: Bethanie Treble. Year-5 – poem/art: Highly Commended: Morgane Chauvel, Eeva Salo, Leiana-Mai Darks.

Year-6 – best leek: first, Dewi Gronow; second, Chantel Williams; third, Siobhan Cundle. Year-6 – Welsh flag: first, Dionne Tapner; second, Shannon Evans; second, Alanys Williams. Highly Commended: Brydie Jones. Year-6 – poem/art: Highly Commended: Siobhan Cundle and Dionne Tapner. Year-6 – cookery: first, Dionne Tapner. Year-6 – photography: first, Conor Crewe.

Bridgend male choir

THE next concert of this outstanding choir of approximately 100 members will be at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Friday, April 4 at 7.30pm.

The star of the evening will be Mike Doyle, but for readers not aware, the supporting soloist is Jodi Bird. I have heard Jodi perform at other concerts, and she is a soprano with big prospects, and is local, actually being a Vale of Glamorgan young lady.

Tickets are available from newsagents WG Davies, High Street, Cowbridge, and the News Shop, Dunraven Place, Bridgend.

The choir moved from its rehearsal venue to Oldcastle Primary School, and visitors and new members will be welcome.

Christian Aid

THE members of All Saints Church, Penyfai, are using the vestry facilities at Smyrna Chapel to raise money for the above charity, which helps people in third world countries.

On Saturday, April 6 between noon and 1.15pm, the members are inviting the public to their chapel hall to enjoy a lunch of homemade soup and bread roll. They welcome donations for this Lenten lunch, with all money raised going to the charity.

Mayor of Maesteg

I WOULD like to thank Coun Ross Thomas, the Mayor of Maesteg, for providing me with the following information for his charity fund.

The final fundraising event will be at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, May 17, a charity ball and a black tie event. There will be a three-course meal, with tea or coffee and mints.

The entertainment for the evening will be provided by the Bridgend Big Band. Tickets are priced at £25 per person.

For further information e-mail *maestegmayorcf@gmail.com* or telephone Lynda/Ross on 01656 735988/734462.

The mayor's fund this year is to be shared between two Maesteg charities, the Maesteg Community Day Hospital and the local scouts' group. At present the fund has raised over £5,000 to help these two causes.

Laleston Gardening Club

THE club invites members of the general public to come along and listen to a talk by Ivor Mace, who will be recounting details on his recent trip to China.

The talk will take place on Monday, April 14, at 7.30pm in the Grade 2 listed 'Cliff' cottage next to Laleston parish church. Entry will be £1 with tea and biscuits provided after.

The club has a thriving ladies section which meets on the first and third Tuesday in the month in the same venue at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome.

Ogmore Vale Primary School

ACTING head J Morgan would like to congratulate Mrs Roderick and the members of her class who represented the school in the recent Welsh National finals of the 'Enterprise Troopers Primary School Competition' at the Senedd in Cardiff.

They were incredible ambassadors for the school, speaking confidently in front of government ministers, resulting in them being placed in the runners-up position.

She would like to thank everyone for their support at the recent book fair and fancy dress, which raised the marvellous sum of £180 for the BBC sports relief fund.

Musical opportunities

THE Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society, which this year is celebrating its 71st anniversary, is welcoming prospective musicians to attend its auditions being held in the crypt of St Michael's Church, Maesteg on Friday, April 25 at 6.30 pm.

The auditions are for the proposed musical *The Adams Family* in Maesteg Town Hall in October. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who has a musical talent.

Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor

MR Martin Griffiths the headteacher, would like to congratulate the following pupils. Every school term the friends of the school donate a book to the pupil in each class whose reading skills have improved the most over the term, and are not necessarily the best readers.

Class 1: Levi McCormick received '365 Bedtime Stories and Rhymes'.

Class 2: Layla Matthews received the 'First Children's Encyclopaedia' the first reference book for young readers and writers.

Class 3: Rhian Jeremy received the DK 'New Children's Encyclopaedia' which has over 9,000 indexed entries, facts and 2,500 coloured illustrations.

Rock and Roll evening

DAVE Reilly, the renowned local disc jockey will be providing sixties music to raise money for the Sandville self -help centre in Cornelly.

There will music for dancing to suit everyone's mood at Pyle Rugby Club on Friday, April 11 at 7.30pm until late. Tickets are £5 at the door and everyone is welcome. Take note this is a new venue for Chris and Jim's annual rock and roll evening.

Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch

THE above choir is organising a quiz night at Tondu cricket club on Friday, April 4 at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

Bridgend Carer's Centre

THE above centre is a charity which has set up to provide support and information to carers, in 87, Park Street, Bridgend, (tel 01656 658479) and is a welcoming venue for all.

Tuesday, April 8 from 1pm to 3pm at the centre there will be a jewellery making session for parent carers.

Wednesday, April 9, the Community Café will be open between 12.30pm and 3.30 pm.

This gives carers the opportunity to enjoy light refreshments and voice their concerns with others in a similar situation. There will be demonstrations of willow craft during the afternoon.

Thursday afternoon, April 10 there is a trip to Cardiff to see Northern Ballet's interpretation of the classic fairy tale of Cinderella in the New Theatre.

The coach leaves Hope Chapel at midday, everyone has a chance of having lunch before taking seats for the show at 2.30pm, and the coach arrives in Bridgend at approximately 5.15pm. A voluntary donation of £6 would be welcome.

ABOVE: Mckinley and Edie Parsons, with their younger sister, Beau.

Mckinley and Edie remember grand-dad with charity run

by PHILIP IRWIN

A YOUNG brother and sister recently raised more than £700 for the British Heart Foundation by deciding to do a five-mile run through country lanes around their home in the Vale.

The inspiration for their effort was someone they had never known – their grandfather who died of a heart condition before they were born!

Mckinley Parsons, aged 10, and Edie Parsons, aged eight, lost their grandfather Jim Mckinley to heart disease before they were born so never had the chance to meet him.

However, they told many stories about him, and his sad death was brought into focus one day at school in St David's Primary, Colwinston, when the school held a 'Healthy Hearts' day.

This set them thinking and, on their way home from school, Mckinley and Edie decided that they wanted to raise money and awareness for the British Heart Foundation.

Their mother Sharon told The GEM: "They planned a five-mile run, starting and finishing from our home in Llampha. Their father drove the route to check the mileage."

However, the run hit an unforeseen snag when the high winds hit the Vale some weeks ago. A tree blew down in the garden, and another car trip was necessary to see if the roads were clear of fallen trees.

They were, so despite the windy weather, Mckinley and Edie set off on the run.

Sharon said: "Their father rode on his bike to keep them safe, and I drove their little sister, Beau, to the halfway point with refreshments.

"Beau was also responsible for setting up the finishing line, so they could breast the tape together for a big finish."

"One mile in, Edie twisted her ankle but was determined to complete her challenge, even though her dad offered to take her the last mile on his bike.

"She refused and completed it on foot!"

When it came to sponsorship, they had a great response from family and friends.

Staff and pupils from St David's were supportive, and Mckinley also had donations from team members in Cowbridge under-11s rugby team.

The total recently passed £700 and the justgiving pages have not yet closed. (They can be found at *www.justgiving/Edie.Parsons* or www.justgiving/Mckinley.Parsons).

Sharon concluded: "One thing I can be sure of is that their grandfather would have been extremely proud of them!"

Masterclasses in maths held at Porthcawl school

SIX pupils from Porthcawl Comprehensive School have attended 'maths masterclasses' at the University of South Wales every Saturday morning over the last three months.

Heechan Kang, Sultaan Azam, Daniel Song, Callum Evans and Elle Morey (year-10) all attended the Key Stage 4 masterclasses for pupils in years 10/11. Mitchell Davies of year-9 attended the Key Stage 3 masterclass.

The pupils successfully completed the course and studied such things as the maths behind nuclear physics, coding and cryptography and the maths of the electric guitar.

Heechan said: "What made the Saturday masterclasses so useful was that virtually all of the topics required us to use our existing mathematics knowledge. It opened us up to the endless possibilities maths gives us."

Heechan and Sultaan were also successful in the intermediate maths challenge run by the UKMT trust at Leeds University. The school enters many pupils for this challenge and these two pupils obtained a gold certificate and were in the top 7,000 of over 200,000 entries who made it through to the international follow up competition. **NE**

NFU MEETING

LOCAL farmers are invited to the next Glamorgan NFU Cymru county meeting, on Wednesday, April 9 at the Duke of Wellington Hotel, Cowbridge.

Starting at 7.30pm, members will have the opportunity to discuss policy issues including the two current Welsh Government consultations on the Rural Development Plan 2014 – 2020 and the EID movement reporting system and identification for sheep/goats.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Newbold Solicitors WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

It can be daunting running your own business and competing against other local companies; it is important to have something that sets you apart.

However, we at Newbold Solicitors believe that if you work hard and provide the highest quality advice and at a price that people are able to afford, you can be a success story.

Newbolds Solicitors opened its doors four years ago, initially named Brendon's Solicitors and employing only two staff, but the acquisition of Newbold and Co solicitors in Cwmbran brought not only a new name, but two more offices full of dedicated staff.

Since then we have gone from strength to strength, expanding further into west Wales in late 2013 with the opening of a new office in Neath bringing us to four offices and over 30 staff.

From our four offices we can now cover the whole of south Wales from Carmarthen to the Severn Bridge.

From our modest beginnings we have strived through challenges to be amongst the top 10 conveyancing firms in Wales and are accredited with the conveyancing quality mark. Not only are our services award winning though, our staff are too.

Our senior partner, Catherine Hartland, has received a number of awards such as 'Best Woman in Business' (finalist) and Best Woman in Law (runner up).

Recently Kate Sullivan from our Neath office won 'Best CILEX Student' 2014 for her legal executive course – an achievement that we are all very proud of.

Newbolds have a great team of solicitors whom we have brought into our talented team and have further nurtured their skills.

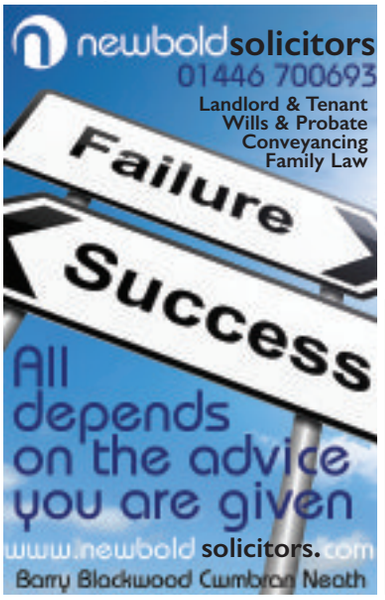
Our staff care about the results they achieve for their clients, they are approachable, friendly and speak in plain language so you always leave knowing we care and understand your issues, and you have the confidence in Newbolds to handle your case.

Newbolds has a specialist landlord and tenant department, family, wills and probate and of course a dynamic conveyancing department.

We do not believe in over charging clients and always make sure clients have value for their money.

We make sure you get the best possible results by working with you and although you may not have heard about us in the Vale, once you meet us, you will realise why we have become a market leader so quickly.

So contact us today to see if we can help you on 01446 700693.



Securahome sales and marketing manager Nigel Hocking (far left) presents an iPad to assistant head Jonathan Ling and pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

iPad gift offers window for learning at school

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School students have taken delivery of a new iPad, as part of a local business's scheme to invest in IT for schools.

Securahome, which has showrooms in Ewenny Garden Centre, Bridgend, and Gorseinon, Swansea, is giving away iPads to schools across Wales as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations.

The iPad was presented to assistant head Jonathan Ling, who explained how tablet computers are used to aid learning in the school.

"iPads are used across the curriculum, for subjects from English through to chemistry," he said. "We have subject specific, educational apps on them as well as books for children to read in the iLibrary, teachers also use them to write their subject blogs, so this donation will get good use!"

Securahome, which specialises in the installation of orangeries, conservatories, windows and doors, launched the scheme to mark its two decades of business.

The comapny's MD, Jason Jenkins, said: "We've had a large number of referrals and recommendations from customers over our 20 years in business and so wanted to give something back to say 'thank you'.

"As a father, I know how important and useful IT is for learning, so donating iPads to schools seemed to be a natural way of giving something back to the community that has supported us so well."

Under the scheme, customers who are making an enquiry or referral can nominate a school to receive an iPad. Each month, Securahome will hold a draw of the names submitted, with the winner receiving an iPad.

Mr Ling added: "We are very pleased to be supporting this scheme, it is good to see a local business invest in the community in this way."

The scheme was also commended by Gowerton AM and minister for science, enterprise and transport Edwina Hart at its launch earlier this month.

The pleasures of cycling in the Vale

THE clocks have sprung forward, spring is now here and Easter is just around the corner.

It's great to see the roads and trails drying out so let's get the bikes serviced, either after a hard winter's use or hibernation, and enjoy the lovely Vale and beyond.

A bike feels transformed when worn tyres; brakes, cables and bearings are replaced, making your ride far more enjoyable.

Don't forget, if your bike is beyond economic repair, at Vale Cycle Servicing we can supply you with a nice new shiny bike from manufacturers such as Superior and Raleigh, with the first service free!

Bag up garden waste for collection

NOW that the spring to summer planting season is under way, make sure you use the Vale's garden waste service.

Collection dates are detailed on the council's website or in your recycling calendar and residents may ether use a reusable garden waste bag (£1) or biodegradable ones (3 for £1), available from most council reception desks.

Cabinet member for the environment and visible services Coun Rob Curtis, explains: "As waste management and cleansing colleague Phil Williams (*pictured*) shows, grass clippings, dead leaves, or foliage from pruning are all items that can be included.

"However, there are certain items that MUST be excluded – for example rubble, soil and invasive weeds such as Japanese Knotweed.

"Please ring the team if you are unsure, otherwise our crews may leave bags behind."

Express Denture offers personal care

EXPRESS Denture Service, at Threeways Denture Clinic, offers professional, personal and prompt denture care in a comfortable, discreet environment.

Our patients are the number one priority at our clinic. We work hard to provide you with the best fitting, most aesthetically-pleasing dentures, made specifically to fit your lifestyle.

All of our services are completed in our on-site denture laboratory. We provide hand-crafted, quality dentures, and take great pride in making your smile just right for you; home visits available.

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Free Initial Consultation and Advice
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Talbot Green: 01443 222509
Andrews Denture Clinic, 89 Whitchurch Road, Cardiff, CF14 3JP
Threeways Dental Laboratory, Talbot Square, Talbot Green, CF72 8AB

The First Step to a Better Smile

Making every bride feel like a princess!

TULIP Bridal and Photography are opening their doors on Saturday, April 5. This beautiful bridal shop is a welcome addition for Barry and the rural Vale .

Theresa and Jacky, along with David, a professsional photographer, are very enthusiastic about their new venture. Their aim is to make every bride feel like a princess!

These elegantly decorated, spacious premises are a haven for brides, with a beautiful selection of gowns from Ivory and Grace, Pearl Bridal to Sposa.

There is a lovely relaxing atmosphere with an area where you can enjoy a cup of coffee with friends and family, while the dresses are tried on and admired.

For a friendly service and the perfect gown, call in to Tulip Bridal and Photography, St Nicholas Road, Barry, or call 01446 732922 for further information.

Tulip Bridal and Photography
'Here to make you feel like a princess!'

Opening Saturday 5th April
at
6 St Nicholas Road, Barry.
(formerly The Grapevine)

• Wedding Gowns • Chair Covers
• Bridal Jewellery & Tiaras
• Professional Photography Service

Open 10am - 5pm Tuesday to Saturday.
Just call in to discuss your requirements & view our beautiful gowns.

Large free car park
01446 732922

The Life and Times of a Liberated Woman, part 3

BY NANCY DAVIDGE

DURING my early teens living in Llangan, there was very little in the way of entertainment, so my time would be spent helping my father, perhaps turning the handle of the forge and listening to the stories of his life and childhood in Bristol.

He and his friend would hide on the ships leaving the Avonmouth docks to go to the West Indies. Of course, they would be found and sent home.

I was also taught to use a wood lathe and successfully turned out a couple of eggcups under my father's guidance.

They were indeed carefree days. I always had a variety of animals; cats, dogs, goats and ponies and of course the large carthorses used by my father in his work.

On Sundays, I was allowed to choose the records to be played on the wind-up gramophone. My first choice would be 'When it's springtime in the Rockies'. I dreamed one day I would go to the mountains, marry a cowboy and live on a ranch. Of course it was then an impossible dream.

It was decided I should go to Cardiff, live with my eldest sister and find work. This turned out to be as a children's nanny, caring for two small boys aged three and a half years and four and a half years. My wages were seven shillings a week plus my meals when on duty.

If I remained to look after the children while the parents went to the theatre, I would be given a big bag of sweets, sometimes it would be 11pm going home on my bicycle.

They were happy days, until the war clouds were gathering with the news of Hitler's armies invading some small countries, and then Mr Neville Chamberlain returning from Germany with the untrue statement "peace in our time'.

It was obvious the tension was growing between Germany and Britain. I was 16 years of age in the March, and war was declared in September. It was a rude awakening, I knew I would need to find work which would be of use to the country.

I immediately volunteered to become a blood donor, I did not realise how many hours I would eventually spend waiting for injured casualties in the then City Lodge.

I also became a warden in the ARP. About this time, I met a young man who was introduced to me by my brother-in-law. From our first meeting we got on well. His brother was a well-known Cardiff boxer having won a medal at the Olympics in Berlin. So, as I had been an ardent supporter of Jack Peterson, I was delighted to be invited to the exhibition fights he was involved in.

My boyfriend would visit my parents and help with getting in the hay during harvest time. I knew if and when he would be called to join one of the services he would choose the RAF. I asked him if he had a choice of being on the ground, would he do that.

A month later my boyfriend and I became engaged, shortly afterwards he had his call-up, and against my wishes volunteered to become a rear gunner. The second time he came home on leave I sensed a difference in him. Then the third time it was decided to have a party in his sister's home.

Of course I was invited but as the drinks were flowing my boyfriend was drinking to excess and showing me a side of him I never knew. Realising it was never going to work, when he returned to the RAF I wrote to him including the ring and ending our engagement.

I heard through the grapevine he eventually married with it lasting less than two years!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

St Canna's medieval history revealed

DURING the restoration of the old school room at St Canna's, Llangan, in 2011, some skeletons were discovered on the north side.

Under the guidance of archaeological experts, Richard and Sophie Lewis, analysis was carried out. The eight skeletons which were found are from the medieval period when records show that a place of worship was established in Llangan.

An illustrated talk was given last week by Richard and Sophie and they shared with a full and enthusiastic audience, their findings. They were able to show that some died from diseases and whether they were men or women or, in one case, a child aged two.

Examples were on display and included pottery, as well as some of the bones and teeth. Ugh!

Respecting that these were individuals once buried in the churchyard, their remains will be reburied during a short service at 1.30pm of Friday, May 2.

Carbon testing during the coming weeks will show whether the skeletons are from an even earlier period – perhaps Roman. We await the next instalment about the history of Llangan.

A big thank you to the ladies for the refreshments provided. Well done to the teams who have done so much to revive the community spirit in the parish, with wine club, book club, yoga lessons, coffee mornings and talks of such a high quality.

My own personal thanks to Gareth Williams for his help and information regarding this report!

News from Llangan school

ON Tuesday, March 25 the school's hockey team had a very successful tournament at Cowbridge Comprehensive school, winning all their matches!

On Thursday evening, April 3 Llangan School will be hosting a literacy and numeracy information evening for parents. On Friday, April 4 Llangan School council will attend the Copthorne Hotel in Cardiff for the Play Alwd awards ceremony.

St Canna's Green

THIS will be the new name for the proposed new development at the former St Mary Hill garden centre; four and five bedroom houses are promised, but what has happened to the promised affordable homes for the less well-off? The new name for the development 'St Canna's Green' could also cause some confusion with the church situated nearly a mile away!

Call for more tree planters

A BARRY environmental conservation group are calling on volunteers to help them plant native Welsh trees along one of the main entrances into Barry in memory of the 700 Barry men and women who never returned from the First World war.

Their next tree planting event will be on Saturday, April 5 from 11am till 12.30pm meeting at the junction of Merthyr Dyfan Road and Port Road East.

Please wear appropriate clothing and wellies or strong boots.

The Chairman of the White Farm Conservation Group, CounRob Curtis, said: "So far we have managed to plant around 250 trees but we need more volunteers to help us plant even more. So please feel free to come along and plant a few saplings which will give a home to wildlife for many years to come."

Charity event for gymnasts

AN Easter Bazaar will be held at Barry YMCA on Saturday, April 12, from 9am.

There will be an Easter bonnet competition, stalls, face and nail painting, games, lucky dip and tombola.

All proceeds to go to the female gymnasts fundraising to attend the Florida competition 2015.

Dinas Powys: 'Billy Liar'

DINAS POWYS Players are performing Billy Liar at the Parish Hall, Dinas Powys, on April 10, 11 and 12.

Curtain up at 7.30pm prompt; admission £7; concessions £6.50.

For tickets, telephone 02920 512868 or 02921 406168. Tickets also available at The Village Post Office, Village Stores, and the Murch Post Office, Camms Corner.

Cowbridge restaurant offers Italian dining at its most enjoyable!

WHEN it comes to national stereotypes, dining out in a good Italian always gives you a reassuring sense of anticipation.

Choose a good French restaurant, for instance, and you might worry that the waiters will know a lot more about food and wine than you do – and they won't be shy about letting you know it!

Similarly, although UK food has come on in leaps and bounds in recent years, there is still the thought that some Brits don't take to service, and you can catch them in a grumpy mood.

A good Italian, however, comes with the promise that staff will enjoy serving you, and the certainty that they will encourage a relaxed atmosphere where diners talk, laugh, and enjoy the experience.

That is precisely how it felt to dine at L'Ariosto's, which is offering a wide choice of authentic Italian cuisine in Eastgate, Cowbridge, in the premises that for so long were occupied by Basil's.

Authentic because all the staff are Italian, in the main from the Calabria region, so you can expect bold flavours, generous portions and an attention to detail.

There's a comprehensive wine list, with bottles priced sensibly for all pockets. I find ordering the house wine is a good guide, and the house red was excellent.

For starters, I chose one of the house specials on the night, 'Zuppa di fagioli' – a spicy bean soup. The Italian regions all have their version of a peasant soup, and this one was very satisfying, with plenty of flavour and thick with vegetables.

My guest chose polpette – meatballs in a spicy tomato sauce – and these were excellent, with a chilli kick in the sauce combining well with the savoury spiced meatballs. A definite success.

She followed this with veal alla crema, a generous portion of tender meat, with a sauce of white wine and mushrooms. Standard with all main courses is a dish with a variety of vegetables and potatoes – all fresh and lightly cooked, and more in quantity than either of us could manage.

However, while the veal was good, I felt I hit the jackpot with my main course, 'Tagliata di Manzo', a dish that takes your breath away when it arrives at the table.

It comes served in a basket – made of crisp spaghetti – and this basket is overflowing with four main ingredients. There is courgette, beetroot and pecorino cheese – all thinly sliced – and these really work well together, with the strong pecorino counterbalancing the vegetables.

However, scattered through this dish were pieces of beef, again thinly sliced, melt-in-your mouth pink strips of the best beef I have tasted in years. My guest agreed, and was only too happy to steal them off my plate!

Tagliata di Manzo is not a Calabrian speciality – it is a Florentine dish – and there is something about the way they flavour the strips of beef that makes them very special indeed.

We both struggled to finish our main courses, and after the Tagliata it was time to take a breather and see if we could find space for a dessert. We were wavering, but then we were shown the contents of the dessert shelf!

L'Ariosto's vary their desserts, so if you pitch up on a Wednesday, by Friday there may well be another speciality there.

We were offered a 'Bisqui a la fragole' - slightly misleading because there is was no biscuit in it. It looked like a strudel but had the texture of a sponge, and was filled with chantilly cream and strawberries. This was a real delight.

Our second dessert was a satisfyingly rich chocolate semifreddo, and they proved to be a fine way to finish an excellent meal.

Diners can expect to pay between £15 and £25 for a three-course meal at L'Ariosto's – depending on whether you opt for a pasta or pizza main course, or go for an option such as the Tagliata di Manzo (£15.95).

The pizza, incidentally, is big enough for two to share, which would make a fine early evening meal, and L'Ariosto's is also offering a £9.95 two course special option.

The Vale is well served for dining out, and keen competition promotes high standards. It looks as if L'Ariosto's will be more than holding its own in that league.

PHILIP IRWIN

FICH + RAMOUS HAIRDRESSING

WIN

60 MINUTE MAKEOVER

GEM Competition

Home of Stella

Put yourself forward or nominate a friend or family member to win a Fich + Ramous 60 minute makeover. The makeover could include: Stylish new haircut, luxury colour and/or highlights, full make-up, full set of gelish nails.

Every entrant also benefits from a £10 voucher for services and treatments in our Beauty Rooms. T&C apply. The winner will be chosen by The GEM. Winner will need to come to the salon for a colour patch test at least 48 hours in advance. Over 18s only due to colour and makeup application. Winner must give permission for before and after photographs to be published.

Entry Form - Please include a photograph

Name of nominee _____

Your name _____

Nominee contact telephone number _____

Briefly tell us why the nominee is deserving of a Fich + Ramous makeover? _____

_____

_____

Post your entry to Fich & Ramous Competition, The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. Email entry to *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* or like Glamorgan GEM and comment on the competition post.

Entries must be received by Friday 18th April 2014.

Our Last Winner

Before and After photos of Lesley Midlane!
This look would typically cost:

- Cut, Finish, Restyle with James or Lauren – **£28**
- Full Head of Colour plus Hi-Lights - **£85**
  (25% discount on colour is available on Wednesdays)
- Full Makeover with our 'ELF' Make-up Artist Chloe - **£22**
- Gelish Manicure - **£28**
- **Total Makeover Price - £163**

Tales from the Vale...

THIS occasional series of articles by Angharad Wynne is based on the content of a 'vellum-covered note-book' written by a 'tall, solitary old gentleman, in a rusty black suit and yarn stockings' who was known to the lawyers of Lincoln's Inn, London.

He was 'a Welshman…who visited his native Vale of Glamorgan every long vacation.' His note- book was published posthumously in 1839 as 'The Vale of Glamorgan, Scenes and Tales among the Welsh'.

Three Spirit Nights

THERE are three 'spirit nights' in the Glamorgan calendar. They are known as Ysprydnos and are considered nights when the veil between the world is at its thinnest.

Traditions associated with these nights involve divination of the future, particularly predicting one's sweetheart or future spouse. These Ysprydnos fall on All Hallows Eve – our modern day Hallowe'en – Christmas Eve, and May Day Eve.

Our narrator relates the story of how he once determined to see his future bride on All Hallow's Eve, and the intricate series of 'rituals' he undertook to do so.

First, he turned his coat and waistcoat inside out and walked around the church 'the right number of times'.

The next thing to be done was obtain a pair of lady's garters! Our narrator is given a pair by an obliging girl in the local hall, he ties them together with what he describes as 'a true lover's knot' and lays them next to his heart until going to bed.

The final part of the ritual involved placing the 'charm' – the knotted garters – beneath the seeker's pillow, presumably either to induce a vision in the dark or to dream of one's future partner.

In the case of our by now rather terrified narrator, he does indeed see a vision beyond his bedclothes, a woman dressed in garb which suggested that she dwelt 'in a land that is beyond the sea'.

He also recounts the exploits of Gwen Rees, a local girl who used the tides of a Christmas Eve to divine her future husband. The 'ritual' involved stoking up the hearth fire and laying a clean cloth on the table and upon it a feast of tempting dishes.

She then undressed, washed her smock in a pail of clear spring water and spread it carefully to dry on the back of a chair near the fire.

Gwen then went to her bed, listening hard to hear if her smock and the supper would draw the spirit of her future husband to the fireside.

She soon heard sounds in the room below and tiptoed out of bed to peep through wide cracks between the floorboards. There, sure enough, was a dark figure sitting by the fire 'making much of her fresh-washed smock.'

But when she looked more closely, she discovered to her dismay that the dark figure was actually the family's large black cat licking its chops after having devoured much of the dainty feast. Then 'he pricked up his ears, and giving a knowing look, he stretched out his paw to the poor girl's smock, which he began to play with and dandle.'

Yet another account recalls the experience of preacher Thomas Williams, who spent a night sleeping in the hills on an Ysprydnos. He used no tricks or charms whatsoever, yet when he got into bed the following night, the door of his chamber opened, the room filled with light and the mother of the young woman whom he was later to marry walked in with her daughter in her hand.

The apparition addressed the preacher, saying: "Here, Thomas, I am going; but I leave Mary for you." In the morning the preacher discovered that indeed, the old woman had died during the night, at the very moment of the visitation.

Glamorgan shares these Ysprydnos traditions with places across the British Isles. Many a mountain-top, Neolithic burial chamber, spring and stone circle has such folk rituals associated with it, though of course the specific customs differ from place to place.

They are the echoes of the rites of our Celtic and pre-Celtic ancestors handed down generation to generation, surviving many social and religious changes.

Are you inspired by the Tales from the Vale? Would you like to take an active part in keeping the heritage of the rural Vale alive?

If so, Creative Rural Communities may be able to help. We offer support for community projects that conserve our unique heritage. We can do this supporting: events, festivals, exhibitions or other activities which celebrate the heritage of the rural Vale; a range of projects which improve the rural Vale's natural, cultural or built heritage.

For further information and to discuss ideas, contact Branwen Dickson, Creative Rural Communities, tel: 01446 704828; email bdickson@valeofglamorgan.org.uk.

New book tells the story of veteran's Second World War

MR Alan Higgins, who lives in Bridgend but was born and grew up in Barry, has published his first book at the young age of 90.

Mr Alan Higgins.

'You're in the Navy Now' is a vivid record of Alan's extensive wartime service in the Royal Navy.

He was born at Number 28 Burlington Street, Barry Dock, on November 25, 1923, and in September 1939, at the tender age of 15, decided to travel to Cardiff to join the Royal Air Force. However, the RAF decided not to accept his offer!

Not to be put off, Alan went to the Senior Service recruiting office next door and joined the Navy "to see the world."

So began a period of great adventure, some excitement and not a little danger. In 1941, at Scapa Flow, he joined *HMS Edinburgh*, a 10,000 ton six-inch gun cruiser. The *Edinburgh* took young Alan to Malta in the Mediterranean, to South Africa and to the Arctic Circle before she was sunk in April or May by a German U-boat. She was carrying tons of gold, too.

Stranded in Russia Alan experienced more hair-raising escapades during a six months stay in Polyarno, before he was returned to the UK.

In early 1943, the Royal Navy decided to send him, with others, to Norfolk, Virginia in the USA, to help bring a Landing Craft Infantry, across 'The Pond'.

"Arriving at Norfolk you can imagine my shock when I saw my landing craft: she was 160 foot long, 23 foot beam, flat bottomed, four-foot draught amidships, 250 tons and eight diesel main engines, the size one would see on a bus. I was seasick on a 10,000 ton cruiser, so one can imagine how I fared on a 250-ton craft!! The crew was about 16 or 17 with two officers."

Alan's job was to receive and decode wireless messages. From Norfolk, they sailed to Gibraltar, via Bermuda, with adventures along the way. LCI (L) 111 entered the Mediterranean, where they would be bombed and shot at as they embarked on several missions to land troops on various beaches. Alan was present during the invasions of Sicily and Italy. He was at Salerno and Anzio too.

"I should mention that as well as being the telegraphist, I was also the signalman, which served me in good stead as a witness to all the landings in which we took part, including all the Mediterranean landings.

"Anzio was particularly rough – thanks to the constant air attacks and shelling – but I must record my admiration at the courage and fortitude of the British Tommy.

"At Anzio, I expressed these feelings to a particularly brave soldier. He turned to me and said – 'Jack, let me tell you something, I couldn't get off that tin box ship of yours quick enough.' Alan's 'reward' for serving in combined operations in the Med was to be sent to Sword Beach, Normandy, in June 1944, as part of Operation Overlord, the invasion of Nazi-occupied France.

Here Mr Higgins experienced more of the hellishness of modern warfare: "Through the ring of bombarding vessels we sailed, and as the beach grew nearer, one could see splashes as shells and mortars homed in on and near the landing area.

"As we reached the beach and began unloading, the first casualties were sustained."

The orders were for all wounded to be landed on the beach.

"There was one soldier being helped by two others, his left foot and boot as one in a mangle of flesh and leather. I shall never forget the almost apologetic look he gave me as he passed by."

Then Alan went back to the Mediterranean and on to the Adriatic. Here he embarked on various 'capers', before returning to Old Blighty when the war was well over.

As the blurb on the back of Mr Higgins's book says: 'Despite the horrors and terrors, **You're in the Navy Now** is rich in gentle humour'.

You're in the Navy Now is available from this email address: DAVESUECLARA@btopenworld.com. The cost will be £10, plus £2 postage and packaging.

Mr Higgins will be selling and signing copies of his book at the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre @ Barry Island Station on Easter Sunday, April 20, from 1pm – 4pm.

Glenn Booker

NEWS FROM THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN RAMBLERS

A hazy day in the Gower

WALKS in the Gower area are always popular with the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers, especially when the weather forecast is a positive one.

The starting point for the walk was just outside the village of Reynoldston, and the walk was to take in the second highest point in the Gower, the Cefn Bryn (ridge hill).

This was a figure of eight route, first taking in the western end and after lunch continuing on the eastern side of the ridge.

Thirty eager ramblers were ready for the lovely walk, the first point of interest was Arthur's Stone, or Maen Ceti.

There are many legends and tales associated with this, but it is a Neolithic burial site dating back to 2500 BC and was one of the first sites to be protected under the Ancient Monuments Act of 1882.

Sharing the walk with the various animals that graze there, we were greeted to the most spectacular view of the Gower Peninsula and beyond.

We continued along the western edge of the ridge, stopping for a coffee break on the way before making our way back to Reynoldston where we had a lunch break at the local pub, King Arthur.

After lunch, we made our way back to the starting point, before the walk on the eastern side of the ridge. Although hazy, it was just clear enough to make out the Brecon Beacons in the far distance, before we made our way to the highest point of the ridge, and marvelled at the view of Oxwich Bay and Three Cliffs Bay before us.

This is a popular route with walkers, as it forms part of the Gower Way. We just passed one of the 50 markers which marks the route, making our way to the start of the walk, stopping on route to admire the milestone that was put there to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.

After such a lovely walk, there was only one way in which to finish the day off, and that was going back to the pub. Our thanks to Bill and John for leading and organising the walk.

Further information regarding walks can be found on valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

GF

Who wants to build what, and where?

Gwen Davies – **Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol** – Proposed marquee for use between April to September. Marquee and ancillary structures to be removed between October to March.

Mr Stuart Williamson – **Midfield House, Pen y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – Extension to existing garage to form work at home office.

Mr Garry Veale – **6 Cliff Parade, Penarth** – Single storey side extensions with balcony/terrace, dormers to side and rear, conversion of garage to living accommodation, external alterations and removal of timber fence with brick wall to match existing.

Mr Steve Bull – **153 Colcot Road, Barry** – Proposed two storey side extension.

Mr Geoff Lages – **7 Adenfield Way, Rhoose** – Single storey side extension.

Mr and Mrs R Digby – **29 Heol y Frenhines, Southra Park, Dinas Powys** – Single storey extension, WC to rear garden.

Ms Terri Ann Cummings – **4 Shakespeare Road, Barry** – Proposed two storey extension to side of property to provide new kitchen and dining area at ground floor level and new master bedroom and bathroom at first floor level.

Redrow Homes (South Wales) Ltd – **Land to the rear of St David's Primary School, Colwinston** – Development of 62 residential dwellings, open space, sustainable urban drainage, vehicular and pedestrian accesses, landscaping and related infrastructure and engineering works.

Mr and Mrs Bowles – **26 Westward Rise, Barry** – Two storey rear extension and porch to front entrance. Ground floor; kitchen/sun lounge. First floor; bedroom.

P J Llewellyn and Partners – **The Rickyard, Penllyn** – New fodder and machinery shed.

Mr Chris McLaughlan – **Specsavers Opticians, 10 Windsor Road, Penarth** – Installation of eight outdoor condenser units to the rear elevation of first floor. Proposed alterations to shopfront signage.

Mr Ian Baildon-Smith – **The Barley Field, The Lawns, Cwrt yr Ala Road, Cardiff** – Retrospective application for the excavation of three ponds/basins.

Ms Catherine Lewis – **The Grove, Corntown** – Two storey extension to side of existing house.

Ms Elizabeth Twose – **49 Castle Drive, Dinas Powys** – Two storey side extension.

Mr Paul James – **166 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Two storey side extension and rear extension. New extended vehicular crossover.

Mr Russell Jones – **Llancarreg, Southerndown** – Construction of detached double garage of flat roof construction.

Mrs Karen Thomas – **Stable Cottage, Court Farm, Llansannor** – Proposed new garage with store above.

Ms Rhian Williams – **Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Broadway, Cowbridge** – Proposed new entrance lobby and foyer and external alterations to facilitate use of first floor.

Mr Chris Davey – **8 Beach Road, Penarth** – Proposed two storey entrance extension and window replacement, new boundary wall.

St Brides Ltd – **North Road, Cowbridge** – Demolish the existing 1.5m high stone boundary wall that fronts onto North Road to allow for a new residential development, which is part of the application 2013/01247/FUL to construct five new dwellings.

Mr Geraint Morgan – **Ffos y Crydd Farm, Peterston super Ely** – Retention of additional width to the two storey side extension.

g2 Energy Renewable Developments Ltd – **Hill House, St Mary Hill, Bridgend** – Erection of a single wind turbine, with a maximum blade height of 77 metres, along with accompanying access track, crane hardstanding, substation, associated underground cabling and temporary construction compound.

Waterstone Homes Ltd – **Land at Penylan Farm, Penylan Road, St Brides Major** – Proposed residential development and associated highway and ancillary works.

Mr Patrick Wilkins – **Woodlands, 5 Heol Ty Mawr, Pendoylan** – Reduce by removing about 10ft off the top of G2 group of holly.

Mr Martyn Young – **4 Heol Moor, Barry** – Convert integral garage into an extra room. Remove garage door and erect a small wall and fit a three-panel UPVC window. Raise garage floor with insulation, wooden frame and floor boards, brick up side door entrance.

The Royal Bank of Scotland – **Natwest, 117 Holton Road, Barry** – Replacement of existing brand review in the form of fascia signage.

Mr Robert Jenkins – **22 Sycamore Crescent, Barry** – Proposed first floor extension to existing single (side) storey, new porch to front elevation and new single storey side extension to the rear.

Mr Darren Williams – **Brynhyfryd, Llanmighangel Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Dormers to front and rear, conversion of garage to habitable room and external alterations.

Mr Geraint Hillard – **234 Barry Road, Barry** – Proposed single storey extension for improved access and disability accommodation comprising front entrance lobby, rear bedroom, wetroom, utility and hall.

Mr C Sullivan – **Shaftesbury House, 2 Vere Street, Barry** – Proposed change of use of part ground floor and former offices and storage to first and second floors to form two flats (one and two bed).

Mrs Pepper – **1 Maillards Haven, Penarth** – Works to two lime trees.

Mrs Louise Thomas – **24 Rectory Close, Wenvoe** – Two storey side extension.

Mr John Blain – **Car park, 2 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Proposed new dwelling in former car parking area. Proposed alterations and extensions to existing building to form five flats.

Mr John Lean – **9 Kymin Terrace, Penarth** – The demolition of a single storey garage and the erection of a single two storey dwelling.

Paulett Farms – **Ty Draw Farm, Llantrithyd** – Three bedroom agricultural dwelling house.

Mr Pat Thompson – **1 Caynham Avenue, Penarth** – Extension to side and alterations.

Mr Raymond Thomas – **Sutton Newydd Farm, Wick** – Single storey annexe extension with loft accommodation.

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club, March 25:

1st Vivien Liles & Hilary Laurence 61.34%; 2nd Kay Dyer & Noelle Bond 54.17%; 3rd Huw Thomas & Celia Thomas 52.55%. Vivien & Hilary also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00271/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The demolition of a single storey garage and the erection of a single two storey dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: 9, Kymin Terrace, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00263/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Dormers to front and rear, conversion of garage to habitable room and external alterations
Location:/Lleoliad: Brynhyfryd, Llanmihangel Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Llanblethian

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00268/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed new dwelling in former car parking area
Location:/Lleoliad: Car Park, 2 Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00269/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed alterations and extensions to existing building to form 5 No flats
Location:/Lleoliad: 2, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00327/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Single storey rear extension incorporating material alterations to the building facade
Location:/Lleoliad: 22, Victoria Square, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00255/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolish the existing 1.5m high stone boundary wall that fronts onto North Road to allow for a new residential development, which is part of the application 2013/01247/FUL to construct five new dwellings.
Location:/Lleoliad: North Road, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No: /Rhif y cais: 2014/00272/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Three bedroom agricultural dwelling House
Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Draw Farm, Llantrithyd
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Ty Draw Farmhouse, Grade II and agricultural outbuildings at Ty Draw Farm, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00229/EAO
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of Conditions 1, 2 & 3 of 2009/00946/OUT for the development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision at Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at Barry Waterfront, adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00272/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Three bedroom agricultural dwelling House
Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Draw Farm, Llantrithyd

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00178/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of 2 storey Community Health Resource Centre, associated car parking and landscaping
Location:/Lleoliad: Former tennis courts to St. Cyres School Annexe, Murch Crescent, Dinas Powys

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00258/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development and associated highway and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at Penylan Farm, Penylan Road, St. Brides Major

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00282/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Outline application for residential development (of up to 70 dwellings) and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Caerleon Road, Dinas Powys

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8
Proposed development at Land at Barry Waterfront, adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry

I give notice that Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, Persimmon Homes Ltd and BDW is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Variation of Conditions 1, 2 & 3 of 2009/00946/OUT for the development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision at Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Environmental Statement from Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, Helmont House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HE, telephone 02920 435880, so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 24 April, 2014.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 24 April 2014 quoting reference 2014/00229/EAO.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8
Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land at Barry Waterfront, adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry

Hysbysir trwy hyn Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, Persimmon Homes Ltd and BDW n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Variation of Conditions 1, 2 & 3 of 2009/00946/OUT for the development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision at Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Environmental Statement from Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, Helmont House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HE, telephone 02920 435880, so long as stocks last.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 24 April, 2014.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 24 April 2014 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2014/00229/EAO.

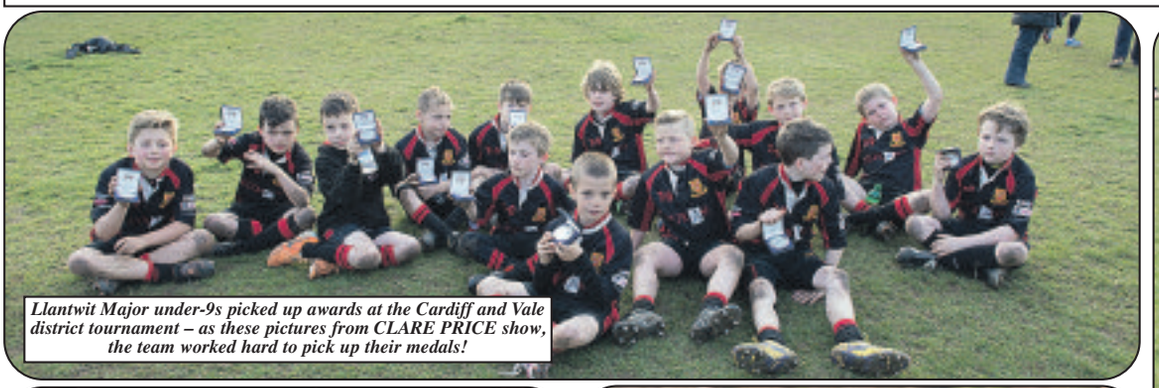
Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 3 April, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

UNDER-9S SHINE IN TOURNAMENT!



Llantwit Major under-9s picked up awards at the Cardiff and Vale district tournament – as these pictures from CLARE PRICE show, the team worked hard to pick up their medals!

Disappointing end to season for the Penarth hockey teams

Penarth Hockey Club wound up its 2013-14 Davis Wood Hockey League campaign in disappointing fashion, with both sides going down to defeat in matches with little meaning for the Vale side.

ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY 5 PENARTH HC 3

Having already secured fourth position in De Cymru & The Marches 1 with victory against Whitchurch the previous weekend, the 1st XI travelled west to Lampeter to close their season against an Aberystwyth University team flirting with relegation.

With more to play for, the students started the game strongly, pressing high and putting the Penarth back four under a lot of pressure.

However, by weathering the storm, it was the visitors who struck first, taking the lead against the run of play with another superb individual goal from Chris Baker.

Despite seizing the advantage, Penarth still couldn't get a grip on the game, and it was only a matter of time before Aberystwyth hit back, threading a long ball through the visitors' midfield and defence to find a man wide open in the 'D'.

Having made no mistake with that chance, the students grabbed control of the game and added another two goals in quick succession to make the score 3-1 at halftime.

The day soon turned into one to forget for Penarth as they went another goal down just after the break and, even though the Vale side managed to pull a couple of goals back through second half strikes from Sam Wooding and Tom Haran, the students cemented their success – and possible survival in the division – with a fifth goal to make the final score 5-3.

PENARTH HC 'A' 1-4 CARDIFF & MET 'F'

Buoyed by the 7-2 drubbing handed out to old rivals Whitchurch the previous Saturday, the 2nd XI's final fixture saw them facing off against a Cardiff & Met side keen to avenge defeat on home soil in early December.

Despite missing a couple of players from the Whitchurch game, Penarth fancied their chances of another success, even though the opposition had mounted a surprisingly strong – and goal-heavy – end to their campaign, but ultimately came undone amid a hail of set-pieces.

Although the early phases proved evenly matched, with chances at both ends, the Cardiff side eventually benefitted from Penarth conceding a soft penalty corner midway through the half.

Having opened the scoring, the visitors increased the pressure – only to concede a goal at the other end as Dave Watkins' run to the bye-line resulted in a simple tap in for the supporting Tom Davies.

Although level on the scoreboard, Penarth still had work to do to match their opponents in terms of pressure, and another couple of well-worked goals tipped the game firmly in Cardiff's favour heading into the break.

Determined to go down fighting, the home side proved more resilient in a tetchy second period and, despite allowing the visitors a fourth goal midway through the half, enjoyed as much of a presence at the opposite end, with Watkins being denied on several occasions.

Youngster Rory Vizard showed why he will play an important part in Penarth's 2014-15 season with some impressive touches up front, while Davies signed off his final game before leaving for university with a strong performance in midfield.

Goalkeeper Calum Grant also departs, but not before turning in another defiant display between the sticks in his final game.

Despite the defeat, Penarth remain sixth in the De Cymru 2 standings, having shown a vast improvement over last season.

Although league action is now done and dusted, the season is not yet over for PHC, with the annual AGM and dinner scheduled for April 10/11 respectively, and a veterans' game against a touring Stafford side planned for Sunday, April 13.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Barry Youth team clings on for win

FOLLOWING restructuring and the signing of new coach, ex- Dragons centre Johnny Bryant, Barry youth were back in the fray last weekend with a well earned too close for comfort victory over opponents Llanrumney.

The long lay off told with Barry being slightly rusty in tactics and defence, using the strong wind at their back Llanrumney took the advantage and scored two unconverted tries without response.

With players out of position due to work commitments it took some time before the green and whites settled down into a rhythm. Barry soon got down to business and put the pressure on the visitors pack making ground through drives by Hunt, Goodfellow and Miles.

Nathan Harris, returning to the squad, deputised in the front row and made it his own, while Legg shifting from number ten to second row added weight to an already impressive unit.

Barry had their chances - however they were denied any score in the first half.

Playing with the wind in the second half and using fresh legs off the bench, Barry were soon on the scoreboard with a seven pointer, the touchline conversion from Flynn superb.

Playing with confidence now the home side punished the opposition again when scrumhalf Emyr Byrne picked up from a scrum and sniped from 10 metres to score, Flynn once again converting.

Barry were in the lead for the first time but this was short lived when a loose defensive kick saw their opponents use space and width to score out wide.

Llanrumney had no conversions and were in the narrowest of leads 15-14.

Undeterred the home side used the wind to pin back the visitors in their own half and when the ref deemed they had transgressed the awarded penalty was moved 10 metres closer after they had deliberately kicked the ball away.

Flynn then put Barry in the lead again at 17-15. A win was clearly in sight and Barry were playing in the right areas.

However, a turnover and kick downfield saw Barry desperately defending in their 22, with forwards going off their feet Llanrumney were gifted a match clinching penalty in front of the posts, except nerves got to the kicker and it sailed wide to the relief of management and spectators.

This was the final score and a much needed tonic for the squad.

This Saturday (April 5), the team are away to Tondu and the bus leaves the club at 1pm.

MM

Send your sports reports to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

OLYMPIC SHOW JUMPER OPENS EQUESTRIAN CENTRE IN THE VALE

FORMER show jumping champion and guest of honour, David Broome CBE, recently declared AJT Equestrian, a brand new equine training centre at Little Hamston Farm, Dyffryn, open.

Up to 100 competitors attended a two-day event, which marked the grand opening of the centre, developed by the Thomson family on their farm in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The former European champion, Olympian and BBC Sports Personality of the Year, David Broome, praised the family for their dedication.

He said: "It's wonderful to see what has been achieved here and I'm honoured to be invited along to celebrate the grand opening. Amy was a first class student of mine and this centre will allow her to share her skills with others. I wish the family every success."

Amy Thomson, who was trained by David Broome and also holds the title of current British National Amateur Show jumper developed the equine training facility with her parents Alison and David on their farm.

Her vision is to develop a top rank equestrian centre in south Wales offering training in three disciplines: dressage, show jumping and eventing, on a purpose built outdoor ménage.

In addition to offering day and weekend courses, and events, the family will also hire out the facility to schoolmasters, clinics and for residential weekends.

This is the first facility of its kind in this area, and interest from the equine community is already reaching far and wide.

The development at Little Hamston Farm was supported through funding from the 'Pride in our Farming Families' grant scheme at Creative Rural Communities, the Rural Regeneration Department of the Vale Council.

In all, 13 farming families in the rural Vale have been supported, with over £578k invested in projects of this nature.

The grant scheme was developed to help the farming community in the rural Vale diversify into non-agricultural activities, to develop businesses to support income generation, supplementing farming activity and supporting future generations.

Nia Hollins, senior rural regeneration officer at Creative Rural Communities said: "I'm incredibly proud to be here to support the Thomsons in celebrating the official opening of AJT Equestrian.

"Amy and her family have worked tirelessly to reach this point and the turnout this weekend is testament to the dedication this family have shown in supporting their daughter in reaching her goal.

"This is a true example of what our grant scheme initially set out to do."

The project was funded through the Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales, by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The project is administered by Creative Rural Communities through the Vale Council; £372k RDP funding has supported the farming community in the Rural Vale through this scheme.

MICHIGAN, SPLASH AND THEIR VAULTING TEAM SHOW OFF TALENTS ON THE BEACH

On a recent brisk Sunday afternoon, visitors at Ogmore beach were entertained by a spontaneous display from a local team of equestrian vaulters from Talygarn Equestrian Centre. Vaulting is gymnastics on the back of a horse in walk, trot and canter, with the control of a lunger. It incorporates beauty and brilliance, power and strength, elegance and precision – all in harmony with the horse. Visit www.talygarnec.co.uk/vaulting.

Cerys Green from Pendoylan on Splash

Riding Splash are Emilia Johns Powell and her dad, David Johns Powell from Cottrell Park Golf Club

See the website for more photos and videos of the Vaulting team in action.

Josie Dix and mum Sian on Splash

David Johns Powell on Splash!

Michigan with Rhi Hill from Cowbridge (front), Carys Morgan from Church Village (behind) and Josie Dix from Cowbridge, (top).

Students get hands-on lessons in healthy living

NOW in its sixth year, Healthy Living Week at Barry Comprehensive School is a focal point of spring term, with students and staff taking part in activities promoting healthy eating, healthy bodies, healthy minds, healthy relationships and – for the second time – a healthy planet.

Miss Smith, Mr Rudholm and Marks and Spencer manager Mr Trew busy preparing fruit with students.

For the first time ever the school was lucky enough to have the use of a fantastic smoothie bike, kindly lent to us from Porthcawl-based charity Sustainable Wales. Local supermarkets Marks and Spencer and Waitrose, were extremely generous with fruit donations, which allowed the pupils to whizz up their own smoothies, while keeping fit at the same time!

Martin Trew, one of the managers at Culverhouse Marks and Spencer got involved with chopping fresh fruit and making smoothies which the students really enjoyed.

Fresh fruit was also sold by members of the student parliament at break and lunch times and profits from fruit smoothie sales going to the Sustainable Wales charity. Year-7 took part in practical emergency life-saving skills using the Heartstart programme and a successful inter-form dodgeball competition took place too.

Normal lessons were replaced with extra sports activities such as karate, breakdancing, dodgeball, basketball and mini-tennis, all arranged by the school's 5×60 officer Stefan Williams, in addition to the full schedule of extra-curricular sporting activities at break and lunchtime.

Other activities included Wales Air Ambulance sharing the good work they provide across Wales, saving people's lives; and Going Public Theatre Company delivered a theatre performance to year-9 which highlighted issues and raised awareness of the misuse of alcohol.

Students identifying different fruits.

Assemblies focused on healthy relationships, healthy communities, healthy bodies and healthy minds with the Faculty of Performing Arts putting on a short play written and performed by students on the themes of bullying and body image.

Continuing these topics were interactive and exciting sessions provided by our partners Vibe Experience, Vale Youth Service's C-Card Scheme and Show Racism the Red Card.

There was even a dentist on site to check some year 7 and 8 students' teeth!

AC

Miss Smith, healthy living week coordinator, uses pedal power to make a smoothie with the smoothie bike loaned to us by Sustainable Wales. PHOTOS BY SCOTT NELSON

Dinas Powis ladies' golf results

On March 4, a nine hole Stableford was played; 1st Lisa Ryley 21 points, 2nd Sue Bridle 17 points on back six from Moyra Smith 17 points.

On March 11, nine hole medal: 1st Maxine Hird 48 - 10 = 38 nett, 2nd Sue Bridle 49 - 9 = 40 nett, 3rd Ruth Yates 52 - 11 = 41 nett on back 6 from Louise Wilding 46 - 5 = 41 nett.

On March 18, 18 hole Norwegian Stableford: 1st Maxine Hird, Lorna Murray, Sian Smith 105 points, 2nd Louise Wilding, Angela Brown, Pat Gosling 103 points, 3rd Ann Mahenthiralingam, Audrey Harwood, Annie Blackburn 102 points.

Nine hole Norwegian Stableford: 1st Kit Roblin, Vera Hollyman, Sheila Stoner 39 points, 2nd Jane Hooper, Jackie Lewis, Pam Warne 36 points.

On March 25, 18 hole Stableford Jubilee threes:- 1st Maxine Hird, Sian Smith, Annie Blackburn 78 points, 2nd Lisa Ryley, Lorna Murray, Pat Gosling 72 points, 3rd Angela Brown, Ruth Yates, Audrey Harwood 62 points on back 9 from Ann Mahenthiralingam, Chris Nelms, Gloria Templeman 62 points.

Nine hole Stableford: 1st Angela Thomas 16 points, 2nd Moyra Smith 13 points, 3rd June Jones 12 points on back six from Jane Hooper, on back three from Pam Warne.

Winter eclectic from January 7 to March 17: 1st Louise Wilding 33 gross - 2.5 = 30.50 nett, 2nd Lisa Ryley 36 -4.5 = 31.50 nett, 3rd Angela Brown 37 - 4.75 = 32.25.

Congratulations to Louise Wilding and Lisa Ryley, who won the Daily Mail Foursomes on the 20th hole against Wenvoe Golf Club.

We are offering free golf taster sessions for ladies and girls throughout April commencing on April 6; contact either 02920 513682 or e-mail secretary@dpgc.co.uk for more information.

RY

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'GIVING THE BEES AND THE BUTTERFLIES A HELPING HAND!"

Maesteg volunteers help the bees and butterflies

VOLUNTEERS from Maesteg Community Garden projects, together with children and staff from the St David's Day Nursery, rolled up their sleeves, got back to nature and gave bees and butterflies a helping hand in Maesteg.

They were successful in applying for a £150 National Garden Centre voucher provided by Keep Wales Tidy, which they used to purchase timber to make two large planting boxes for the nursery in which the children could plant flowers and shrubs.

During Wild Weekend they planted up the boxes and learned all about the flowers and how to water them.

The Deputy Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Phil Jenkins, said: "It was great to see the young children get involved in this project. Hopefully it will give them a love of gardening which will continue as they get older."

Lesley Jones, chief executive of Keep Wales Tidy, said: "I am delighted that so many groups across Wales got involved to help our pollinators and their natural environment. They have planted new flowering plants to attract bees and butterflies as well as giving existing habitats a helping hand."

WANTED FOR POPPY AND CLYDE – A CARING OWNER!

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for canines at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

WE are appealing again for Poppy and Clyde, 10 and 12 year old crossbreeds, who are still with us.

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They are fine with children of around 8+, house-trained and good travellers.

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If you can offer Poppy and Clyde a home, call us on 01656 725219 or pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend. We are open 12 noon-4pm every day except Monday, and starting on April 9, late night opening every Wednesday until 7.30pm.

Linda Feagan (Supporter Relations Officer Dogs Trust Bridgend)

Dogs Trust Bridgend's Fun Day and Dog Show takes place at Margam Park on Sunday, June 22 (10.30am – 4pm).

LEFT: Seniors Poppy and Clyde need you!

Maesteg pupils are reading champions

Bronwen Lloyd and Jessica Waite hold their Maesteg Library World Book Day quiz winners' trophy aloft.

A PAIR of book boffins from Maesteg have teamed up to win a book quiz competition.

Bronwen Lloyd and Jessica Waite from Nantyffyllon Primary combined their novel knowledge to win the annual World Book Day quiz at Maesteg Library.

Now in its 12th year, the competition pits year-six pupils from primary schools in Maesteg against each other in a battle of the bookworms, as they tackle questions on a book that they have been challenged to read ahead of the quiz.

Eight local schools took part in the closely-fought quiz, and Bronwen and Jessica came out on top ahead of Llangynwyd Primary's Bethan Williams and Abbie Grant, who came second.

Both teams have booked their places in the overall 'champions' quiz' which is being held in Maesteg in June, where they will go head-to-head with their counterparts from Pyle and Porthcawl libraries' competitions.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "This quiz has been popular with our schools for many years, which is great because it's a brilliant way of making reading fun and exciting."

Wick pensioners look forward to a full calendar

AT the recent AGM of Wick and District Pensioners Club (WPC), Ron Ayres was re-elected chairman, Fay McGuinness as deputy chair, Margaret Deary as secretary, George Jeffery as treasurer, and all committee members were re-elected.

Wick Pensioners have joined the youth club – planning joint activities! It is hoped that they can all get on a speed-boat in Cardiff Bay and later, if not too seasick, go bowling together.

As usual, WPC are in full swing with a recent coach trip to Carmarthen, and future coach trips to Abergavenny, the Cotswolds, and Western-Super-Mare.

A canal boat lunch and cruise on the River Avon is also planned.

WPC will have a tombola and book stall at the Wick fete on June 7. An Easter party is planned for April.

Recent club meetings have included a quiz, a party (of course!) and an excellent, interesting photographic display from Geoff from the Bridgend Photography Club.

WPC were pleased to make a substantial donation to the Alzheimer's Society, one of their chosen charities.

There are sometimes spare seats on the coach trips; WPC meets on alternate Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm in Wick.

For further information, contact George on 01656 890386. **GJ**

Stags take sting out of the Scorpions

HEMEL Stags defeated the Scorpions in Maesteg for the second time in 15 days, 34-16, after a lack of concentration cost the home side on a number of occasions.

It was disappointing for the Scorpions as they started the game well, creating opportunities and looking like a different outfit to the one that has played over the last couple of weeks, but the Stags took their chances and deserved their victory.

Hemel started strong and after winning two successive penalties, they had an excellent opportunity to score, but James Howitt was held short of the line, losing the ball in the tackle.

Scorpions were also close in the early stages. Connor Farrer worked his magic trying to set up a try but some strong defence forced Chris Vitalini into an error and the chance was lost.

The first try of the day came to the Scorpions and it was Osian Phillips who stormed through the Stags defence to ground. Emanuelli converted to make the score 6-0.

The lead didn't last long after Hemel scored twice in three minutes.

First, Barry John Swindells, the man who bleeds blue and yellow, exploited a gap in the Scorpions defence; however he failed to convert his own try.

Then Scorpions were napping, failing to set up their defence for a penalty and Aaron Small took advantage, with Swindells converting, and the away side were now 10-6 up.

Eight minutes before the interval, Michael Brown further extended the Stags' lead with a try in the corner following a fine passing move. Swindells missed the kick.

Straight after the break they were even further ahead after James Cameron broke through from short range; Swindells' goal made the score 20-6.

In a score that certainly would have gone to a video referee if there was one, James Hill touched down in the corner, adjudged to have been slightly before he was pushed into touch.

The nightmare second half continued for the Scorpions as they conceded two tries in as many minutes – Ryan Pratchett was over first with North Wales Crusaders loanee Lee Hudson getting another from kick-off.

But the Scorpions picked up the pace and had something to cheer about with 15 minutes remaining. A fantastic length of the field move, started with a strong run from Dafydd Hellard ended with Chris Vitalini grounding under the sticks. Emanuelli converted.

Scorpions skipper Phil Carleton, normally a forward, rounded things off with a classic wingers' try, outrunning the whole of the Stags' side over half the length of the field to score in the corner to make the score look more respectable, as it deserved.

The fledgling Welsh side still need a lot of improvement but with this score a lot closer than the last couple of weeks, things look to be moving in the right direction. **IG**

Bridgend bridge: *latest results*

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for Wednesday, March 26: First, Bill Turner and Marjorie Morris; second, Liam Sheridan and John Beard; third, Glyn Williams and Dave Lea.

Friday, March 21: First, Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams; second, Dave Reed and Jim Hume; third, Barrie Jenkins and Eleanor Jones.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, March 27 were Colin Lewis and Stuart Davies, Arthur Harvey, Norma Phinnemore and Susan Hunt.

A new course for beginners will begin in September. To register an interest, call either Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or John Evans 01656 880372. **DN**

'Challenge of a lifetime'! for school students

SEVEN determined Llantwit Major Comprehensive students have signed up for World Challenge expedition to Uttrakahand in India in July 2015, and will be busy raising funds over the forthcoming months.

This will no doubt test their enterprise and leadership skills as they work as a team from the start. The expedition involves a number of stages including the Acclimatisation Phase. It will help prepare them physically and mentally.

The Challenge Phase – will the team be up to trekking through the jungle to the fantastic Himalaya mountain range? **SL**

A win for Tim

ABERTHIN trainer Tim Vaughan started last week on a winning note.

On Monday, his *Duneen Point*, partnered by Richard Johnson, was successful at Taunton at odds of 8-1 and at his local track Chepstow on Tuesday, his *Fayette County* won the opening novices' hurdle beating the Nicky Henderson-trained *Call The Cops* by a short head in an exciting finish. *Fayette County* a 7-4 chance was ridden by Dougie Costello. **BRIAN LEE**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 9 April 2014

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League title joy for Porthcawl youth team

The league-winning Porthcawl youth team. PICTURE BY MARTIN FURNESS.

Pencoed RFC blow away Morriston with fine win

PENCOED were swiftly out of the blocks in this Division 3 South West match against Morriston.

A solid scrum in their own 22 saw them move the ball wide for Ken Morris in the outside centre position to put his foot on the accelerator and break to halfway before sending right wing Glen Hiscocks away to score at the posts, Marc Davies adding the extras.

Hiscocks was again soon in the action, racing back to his own line before putting in a relieving kick to touch. Pencoed second row Ashley Halse then put in a good defensive hit before Morris countered and full back Tom Cross straightened onto the pass to sell a dummy and race in from 40 metres.

Pencoed then got their third try of the opening quarter following a sweeping 60 metre counter attack which saw left wing Scott Narbeth cutting infield deep in the home 22, where supporting second row Dano Howells crashed over.

It was now Pencoed's turn to defend with No8 Gareth Prentice prominent with two big hits within his own 22, Pencoed then picking up a yellow card before Cross eased the pressure following a turnover with a fine low trajectory clearance into the stiff breeze.

Pencoed then scored a remarkable try; with the home side looking almost certain to score at the corner flag, Hiscocks, who had covered across from the opposite wing, prevented the try, and the Pencoed defence was able to regroup before flanker Josh Harris broke away from the ensuing maul to his 40 metre line to find Morris in support and the centre raced all the way to finish off a breathtaking passage of play! Davies converted.

Morriston were somehow four tries adrift having blown at least three gilt edged opportunities to score, with full back Rhodri Jones and scrum half Gareth Thomas looking particularly threatening runners.

Pencoed increased their lead early in the second half when good sleight of hand from Cross, Prentice and prop Keiron Moore kept the ball alive on the left hand touchline before the ball was moved across field where Howells did well to evade a tackle and send Hiscocks away around halfway, the in-form wing stepping inside the last line of defence to score at the posts, Davies converting.

Pencoed scrum half Adam Williams then did well to make a try saving tackle in the corner, and with Pencoed under pressure they picked up a second yellow card.

The 0-31 scoreline at this stage did not seem to have a bearing on the match as Pencoed defended as if the score was 0-0. A double hit from Prentice and prop Christian Powell drove Morriston backwards, before tackles near their own line from Harris, Lloyd Ryland, Halse and Hiscocks kept Morriston out.

The home side then got a yellow card before Pencoed scored their sixth try, moving the ball wide from a scrum around halfway for Hiscocks to break clear and the supporting Gareth Dyer took the inside pass to race over.

Morriston then got a well deserved consolation try in the dying minutes from full back Jones who also added the extras for a final scoreline of 7-36, the home side's margin of defeat not reflecting their efforts.

With pitches now hopefully firming up Pencoed can look forward with confidence to their final four league games of the season. On Saturday Pencoed entertain Bryncoch at the Rec, 2.30pm kick off.

It was a case of 'tries galore' on Saturday for Pencoed as (from left) Ken Morris, Glen Hiscocks and Gareth Dyer were among the try scorers. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.

Action from Pencoed youth's game.

PENCOED YOUTH 24 BRIDGEND ATHLETIC YOUTH 13

Both teams served up a match which was a good advertisement for local youth rugby, this despite both clubs having squad members in Hong Kong!

Tries for Pencoed came from Jamie Dyer, Rhys Butler, Shane Izatt, and a particularly dynamic effort from Rhys Bargery, Jamie Pensom adding two conversions.

Clubhouse opinion reflected Bargery as the unofficial Pencoed man of the match, centre Izatt also catching the eye of spectators with his forceful running.

The Pencoed camp were delighted with the contribution of all six of the under-16s squad players who looked comfortable at youth level, match observers mentioning the controlled display of outside half Jacob Lloyd, and flanker Ben Clarke, both emergent players.

This performance bodes well for Pencoed youth in the immediate future, and hopefully will benefit Pencoed RFC at senior level in the longer term.

PENCOED 2ND XV 20 BRYN WANDERERS 39

A 20 point contribution from the returning Richie Samuel, which included a hat trick of tries, was unfortunately not enough in this Mid Glamorgan district league match against a visiting side which fielded a host of new players!

Ricky Evans and Lee Powell were prominent for Pencoed in this defeat, and the 2nd XV must now look forward to the top four play-offs, when hopefully they will be able to select from a position of strength. **TR**

PORTHCAWL YOUTH celebrated their league title success with another free-flowing exhibition to overwhelm Taibach 53-3 in a friendly at South Road.

With the forwards providing plenty of possession, the Seaweeds' exciting backs grabbed seven of their team's nine tries, including a hat-trick by Ross Jenkins.

Porthcawl had been confirmed as champions of the Ospreys OF Youth league before the game when their original opponents, Nantymoel, forfeited the scheduled fixture between the two teams.

Taibach admirably stepped into the breach to enable a sizeable crowd to enjoy an afternoon of entertaining rugby, although they were no match for their rampant hosts.

Porthcawl were in command from the moment Jenkins finished off a fine move to give them the perfect start. Flanker Will Robinson then capitalised on a powerful burst by prop Tom Matthews to add a second try, which was converted off the woodwork by Ollie Banner.

Taibach responded with their best spell of the match and trimmed the deficit to nine points via a Rory Hinchliffe penalty.

It proved to be their only score of the afternoon, however, as Porthcawl regained the initiative with three more tries before halftime.

After excellent individual efforts by centres Jake Thomas and Jenkins, Banner stole the show with a remarkable run from his own territory, capped by an outrageous dummy to leave the last defender clutching at thin air.

Taibach continued to compete courageously in the second half, but their hopes of crossing the home line were thwarted by some determined tackling.

Porthcawl had no such problems, though, as Jobe Owens, their ball-carrying No 8, reaped the reward for following up a kick to stretch the lead to 36-3.

Thomas Matthews joined in with a try from full-back before Thomas touched down for the second time and Jenkins completed his hat-trick.

Porthcawl's coach, Matthew Owen, hailed his squad's commitment to the cause throughout the season. He said: "They've trained hard and come together as a team. I've really enjoyed working with the boys.

"Over the season, we've become a strong team, a bit of a threat to other teams. That's why teams don't want to play us."

As he has done whenever possible during his time at the helm, Owen again used multiple replacements against Taibach: "We've given boys game-time," he explained.

"It's not all about playing your best players all the time. It's a squad effort and you've got to share it around."

He also praised the coaching support he has received this season from professional stars like Tom Prydie (Dragons) and Lloyd Peers (Ospreys).

"They've been a great help. Obviously, if I didn't have the backing of those boys, I don't think we'd see the results. If it weren't for them, I don't think we would have won the league. With their quality of coaching, it's fantastic."

Owen thanked the visitors for their willingness to accept the match at short notice. "If it weren't for Taibach we couldn't have had this game. We're grateful to them for coming down and filling in for Nantymoel. We really appreciate it."

Despite the final outcome, John Newman, the Taibach coach, was satisfied with his side's performance considering the loss of a number of players on the eve of the match, which was only their third since Christmas.

"This morning I was so close to calling it off," he said. "Both teams needed to get on the field and we both got on the field. Overall, although it's 53-3, I'm glad the boys played and that they stuck at it to the final whistle."

Newman was keen for Taibach to fulfil the fixture as they prepare for the upcoming visit of local rivals Cwmavon, who beat them earlier this season.

"We've got an important game coming up in a fortnight and this is all part of that. We lost away but we certainly don't want to lose at home. We're building up to that."

Meanwhile, two of Porthcawl's classiest players, Thomas and Banner, were happy to reflect on their side's title triumph.

"I've loved it," Thomas enthused. "The team has come together and put in some really good performances all year, especially against some hard opposition as well.

"It's been a great season for everyone – the coaches, the club, the players especially. It's all come together and we've won the league, which is the most important thing."

Banner added: "All in all, it's been a good season. We've won the league, so it can't be that bad, can it?"

The outstanding outside-half prospect already had one eye on the evening's entertainment at Porthcawl rugby club, which featured a live band. "It's unfortunate that Nantymoel didn't come down, but we've won the league and it should be a good day!" **HP**

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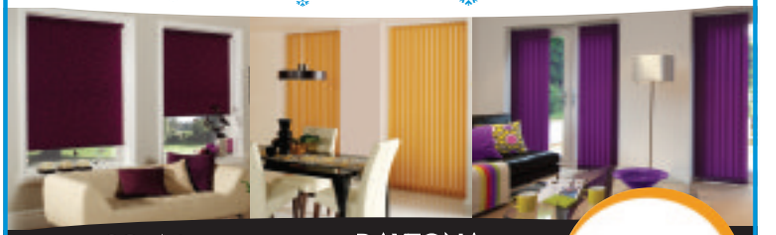

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Happy 1st Birthday Howie Pycroft on 5th April
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Lots of love Nanny & Grampy xxx

Anniversaries

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50
Congratulations
Mum & Dad on your Golden Wedding Anniversary on 4th April

All our love Kerry, Julie, Tom, Inma & the Grandchildren William & Catalina xxx

GOLDEN WEDDING
Cooper
Richard and Xarifa would like to thank all family and friends who helped celebrate their Golden Wedding. The beautiful gifts and cards will be treasured, but best of all will be the memories of a wonderful evening with so many lovely people. A special thank you to our amazing son Ed for the 60's music and to the RAF St Athan Golf Club and staff for the venue/buffet.

Family Notices

In Memoriam
BURT
Mavis
April 7th 2013

We often think of bygone days
When we were all together
The family chain is broken now
But memories live forever
Sweet is her memory
Dear is her name
Deep in our hearts
She will always remain

Love from husband Bill, son and daughter Adrian & Angela, daughter in law Beth, grandchildren and great grandchildren

OAKLEY
Jessie

Peacefully on March 29 at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, Jessie of St Athan. Beloved wife of the late Ivor, dearly loved mother of Robert.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday April 7, service and cremation at 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request.

BEECHEY
Roger

Peacefully on March 30 at Holme Tower, Penarth, Roger, aged 60 years of St Athan and formerly of Tongwynlais. Loving father of Paul, beloved son of Eileen Cain and the late Harry Beechey and step-father Edwin, brother of Angela, Paul and Peter, uncle to all his nieces and nephews, a dear friend of Frances and family.

Sleep peacefully till we meet again.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday April 8, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

OVERY
John

Doreen and family would like to express their gratitude for the love and support given during the passing of John - beloved husband and dad.

The donations for Velindre, and the cards and flowers received, have been of great comfort during this sad time.

Heartfelt thanks to friends and neighbours, Reverend Berry-Davies and Reverend Taylor, Dr McGovern, district nurses, Velindre Hospital, Princess of Wales Hospital, Vale Community Resource Services and W James and Sons funeral directors.

DOWNEY
Valerie

Peacefully, after a long illness borne with courage and good spirit, on 25th March 2014 at The Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth, aged 79 years. Beloved wife of the late and much missed Gerald, loving mother of Michael and Helen, respected mother-in-law of Ellen and Tomos, doting grandmother of Tom and Huw, a good neighbour and friend to many.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the service at All Saints Church, Barry on Tuesday, 8th April 2014 at 12 noon followed by a committal service (for family and close friends only) at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 1.30pm.

Please wear a Marie Curie daffodil at the service. Family flowers only please; donations in lieu of flowers, to either The Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Tower) or Tenovus, may be sent to the funeral home.

SIMS
Victor Barry

Christine, Mark and Michael would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the messages of sympathy on the loss of an adored husband, dad and bampy.

A special message of thanks to the Barry and Vale District Nurses for their care to Barry and to Lyndsay Ellis and staff of Vale Funeral Services.

PUNTER
Christopher William

Mary, Alun, Sue & Miles would like to thank all who sent messages and attended the funeral of Chris, who will be sadly missed by all.

Special thanks to Lyndsay Ellis of Vale Funeral Service and Reverend Duncan Ballatyne for the sensitive and caring service.

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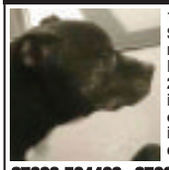
Lost & Found

MISSING: Stanley



12 year old friendly Staffordshire bull terrier, missing from the Rhoose area on Tuesday 25th March 2014. Please if anyone has seen him or has kindly taken him in, could you please contact us.

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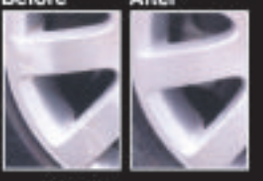
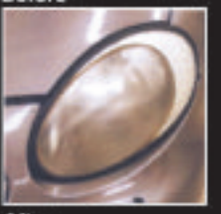


Before



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Local charity football match sees Ty Hafan as the real winner!

ABOVE: The Ty Hafan Dads, Dan Evans/Palms Bistro FC, Island Marine and Cadoxton Imps mini teams at Jenner Park

ON a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon at the Jenner Park, the meaning of the beautiful game was fully illustrated.

In a match dubbed 'Elder Classico', the Ty Hafan Dads met Dan Evans/Palms Bistro FC, and nobody was disappointed except the first aiders, who were expecting a high number of casualties!

The match was very evenly balanced from start to finish which was credit to two very competitive teams who gave their all. Dan Evans started stronger and took the lead through a neat finish which sparked Ty Hafan into a response.

The Dads started to get a foothold in the game and an absolutely incredible lob from Steve brought the sides level, leaving the Dan Evans keeper with no chance!

Like any good team this brought Dan Evans back to life and before long another good finish from Rhidian Scott put them in front again. The Dads then lost a key player in goalkeeper Jeff Griffiths through a major foot injury which could have seriously damaged their hopes of winning the game.

A challenge in the box by Lyndon Davies led to the Ty Hafan Dads having a penalty which was calmly slotted away by Liam Pullin, which brought the scores level again.

In a frantic finale to the game Dan Evans came on strong again, playing some lovely football and, but for some incredible saves from replacement keeper Paul, they would have finished the game off sooner.

The Dads battled courageously until the last minute when a defensive error led to an own goal which won a highly entertaining game in favour of Dan Evans. Man of the match was awarded to Lloyd Bruce.

A spokesperson for the event said " This has been a fantastic day and we are all proud to contribute to such a great charity. A big thank you must go to referee Chris Bowsher who was outstanding throughout the game and also the mini teams of Island Marine and Cadoxton Imps who kept us fully entertained at halftime, showing how football should be played.

"Photographer Paul Fears was also a huge bonus to the event as were general public and Ty Hafan families and friends who turned up to support the teams. We all look forward to next year's game and hope we can generate the same wonderful response from every one involved."

"The final total raised will be announced soon but it has exceeded all expectation, so well done to everyone for your support."

JH

Under-16s' cup and league success

LLANTWIT MAJOR FC under-16s progressed to the Cup final with a comfortable 7-1 win over Sully recently.

Goals by Will Perkins, Rhys Hunter (two), Matthew Clay (two), a screamer from Matthew Cassidy and one from Gabriel Oram sealed their place at Jenner Park on April 9.

They then played closest rivals Porthkerry Panthers in the league and recorded a crucial away win to open up a five point gap at the top of the table over nearest rivals Panthers and Dinas Powis (with both to play).

A fantastic strike from Kris Jones from fully 30 yards opened the scoring and another from the outstanding Ashford Thomas grabbed the headlines.

However, a very hard working and organised team performance from everyone was the key to the victory.

A tough run-in awaits with five league games to go, having already played at favourites Maesteg in the semi-final of the Tesco Cup.

SC

Keeping it in the family!

A family affair at the champion of champions!

WELSH KARATE LEAGUE held its champion of champions event at Cogan Leisure centre.

The event was a great success with just under 400 competitors, with an equal amount of spectators.

The Hutchinson family are pictured with their winning trophies. Trinity Hutchinson will be travelling to Italy this year to defend the gold medal she won at the European championships - we wish her the best of luck.

If anyone is interested in training at our club, go to www.karate-jutsu.org or come along to Cogan Leisure centre any evening, as the club runs as a full-time Dojo.

Pictured above from left to right: Connery Hutchinson, Tylia Hutchinson, Keana Hutchinson, Trinity Hutchinson.

LC

Token win for Brace

***SILVER TOKEN*, a nine-year-old grey gelding owned, trained and bred by David Brace OBE, of the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend, landed the Llewellyn Hugh Phillips Novice's Hunter Chase at Ffos Las last Friday (March 28).**

Partnered by Llanharan's Tom David, *Silver Token*, who won a maiden hurdle over the course in 2010, won by 16 lengths from *Bermuda Boy* and went off the 5-4 favourite.

Mr Brace is sponsor of the Dunraven Bowl Novice's Hunter Chase to be run at Chepstow Racecourse on April 25.

Brian Lee

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SPORTS ROUND-UP

Girls basketball team are the champions!

THE second and final round, of the 5x60 tournament took place on Wednesday, March 19 in the Rhondda Fach Sports Centre.

Bringing together the first and second place teams from all over south east Wales it was a winner takes all battle for the regional championship.

Representing Cowbridge was the Key Stage 3 Girls team. Whilet both Cowbridge boys' teams had fallen short in the first round ,the girls had come out on top as Vale champions. So on Wednesday they arrived in RCT ready and eager for the challenge that lay ahead, determined to show any challengers they knew no fear.

Co-captains Beth Edwards and Jess Gregory led the team.

Sophie Hawkins started as shooting guard, Ella Jones and Emily Gregory were the forwards and Selina Radcliffe and Hollie Oakman rounded out the side at the centre position. Worth noting is that this was a Key Stage 3 competition with most teams fielding sides of mostly Year 9 students.

Cowbridge had no such luxury, with Selina being the only battle hardened Year 9 and the remaining six of the team being young Year 7's.

First up for Cowbridge, playing in the first game of the day, was Pen-y-Dre High School. As Cowbridge took to the court they couldn't help but notice they would be going up against an imposing looking team of tall Year 9's.

Their worries quickly disappeared as their talent, skill and determination shone through immediately. Powered by Beth's inside game, Cowbridge poured on the points and had the game effectively won by halftime.

A dangerous flagrant foul in the second half on Cowbridge's young point guard did nothing but fuel the fire as Cowbridge continued to run riot, eventually triumphing 40-7.

In their second game Cowbridge squared up against Afon Taf High School. This game was a near rerun of the first contest with Cowbridge dominating from the tip off.

Baskets were being scored from all over the floor and Afon Taf had no answer for the devastating Cowbridge full court press and they struggled to get off any decent shots. One solitary field goal was all they could muster as Cowbridge remaining consistent and scored another 40 points in their second victory of the day.

All that then remained for Cowbridge was their old nemesis from the Vale round, St Cyres School. The last time these two schools met it was a defensive master class that ended in a 6-6 draw. (Cowbridge went on to win the first round on point differential.)

The Welsh cross country team.

With the game operating as the de facto final it meant Cowbridge was 20 minutes away from raising the trophy. The day and venue had afforded the sides the opportunity to get to know one another and become friendly over a shared love of basketball.

When the starting whistle blew however all that went out the window and the fierce will of the Cowbridge girls emerged once again. Cowbridge were immediately the stronger team from the get go, getting the ball inside and scoring off the glass with repeated bank shots.

An early lead was built and proved fortuitous as the game progressed. Both sides struggled to begin the second half as they missed at close range and felt fatigue set in.

A couple of baskets by St Cyres narrowed the gap but Cowbridge weathered the storm and forged ahead making a number of crucial plays at key moments in the final minutes. Eventually the whistle sounded and Cowbridge were victorious 26-18.

Congratulations girls, it was a well-deserved and hard earned victory. All those hours in the mornings (the teams train for 30 minutes before school four days a week) paid off and now Cowbridge will reign as south east Wales champions for the next 12 months; now let's get back in that gym, get training again and start the preparation for our title defence in 2015!

CRICKET

The cricket under-15 girls took part in the Cardiff & Vale Knockout Lady Taverners at the Swalec Stadium on March 20.

Cowbridge played Cardiff High School and Glantaf twice in eight over matches. Our first match was against Cardiff High School and we only lost out by 10 runs, with excellent bowling from Selina Radcliffe and Freya Johnson.

We were slow to start scoring runs but Ffion McNamee played well and we nearly caught their score. Final score 107 to 117 runs.

Our second match against Glantaf was not so good; we gave away extras when we bowled to several wides through the game. Our batting was better with Mali Howells scoring 13. Final score Cowbridge 60 runs, Glantaf 85.

Our game against Cardiff High was really close and very exciting. We batted very well with Ffion McNamee and Selina Radcliffe retiring with 15 runs each. Our fielding and bowling was very good and we won the game by just one run, 87-88.

Playing Glantaf for the second time we learnt from our mistakes from the first game and beat them comfortably 94-80. Excellent bowling from Ffion McNamee and Eleanor Lewis. Special mention to Meriel Clode who played extremely well as wicket keeper in every game. Well done girls!

The under 13 (Year 7 and 8) girls' cricket team took part in the Lady Taverners' indoor cricket competition at the Swalec Stadium.

Only Cardiff High and St. Teilo's also entered. Each team played each other twice.

Cowbridge faced Cardiff High in the first match and Cardiff High won scoring 85 runs to Cowbridge's 71. Freya Johnson did well as bowler taking two wickets and Mali Howell scored 21 runs for Cowbridge.

In the second game Cowbridge faced St. Teilo's and Cowbridge won 90 runs to St. Teilo's 72. Again Freya Johnson took most wickets and Mali scored most runs.

When Cowbridge played Cardiff High the second time around, Cowbridge put up a strong fight but lost by only six runs, 89 runs to 83. In the second game against St. Teilo's, Cowbridge won convincingly 114 to 44 runs.

With Meriel Clode, Abi Johnson and Emily Jenkins making lots of runs and Ffion McNamee and Abi Johnson both doing well bowling two players at each, Cowbridge came second overall. Well done.

NETBALL

Lydia Hitchings, Year 12 pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, played netball for Wales in a home international match.

The year 7 county netballers.

She played against Scotland where the team lost, they beat Northern Ireland and lost against England, although put up a good performance against them. Overall, because of point difference, Wales came second overall. Well done to Lydia.

Year 7 took part in the Netball County Finals first round on March 21; we were drawn against Llantwit, St. Illtyds and Bro Edern.

We played St. Illtyds, first dominating every area of the game and not allowing the ball into our defending end of the court until the one goal in the second half.

Excellent shooting from Helena McCormack gave us a 5-1 win. Next we played Llantwit; we were very strong in defence with lovely interceptions from Beth Edwards and Ella Jones. Again lovely shooting by Eve Mordecai and Helena secured a very solid win, final score 10-0.

Lastly we played Bro Edern. This was a messy game with lots of contact in the first half. Once we had settled down our game improved.

We had several good linked passes from our defence through to our goal circle from Lauren Harry, Beth Edwards, Jessica Gregory, Ella Jones and Ffion Hughes.

Excellent shooting again from Stephanie Brownhill and Helena McCormack secured a very good performance, final score 12-1.

We look forward to county netball finals day on Friday, April 4, along with our Year 8 and Year 10 teams.

Player of the tournament Helena McCormack.

CROSS COUNTRY

Three boys from Cowbridge Comprehensive School travelled through sleet and snow to Brecon to compete in the Welsh Schools' National Cross-Country Championship.

The boys, Wil O'Connor, Ben Batten and Jack Tudor, were competing as part of Year 7 Cardiff and The Vale district team.

Ninety-six boys, representing eight districts from all over Wales competed for both individual and team medals. Each district was represented by 12 boys, the scores of the first six boys to finish in each team counting.

Cowbridge Comprehensive was well represented in the Cardiff and Vale team taking three of the 12 places, with no other school having more than one representative.

After weeks of rain and the weather throwing everything it could at the competitors, running through the quagmire of a course was going to be tough for everyone.

Wil, Ben and Jack all showed great tenacity, eventually crossing the line, exhausted and looking as if they had just been through an ice mud bath!

Their determination was rewarded, with an individual bronze medal for Jack and a team gold medal for Cardiff and the Vale, with all three Cowbridge boys finishing in the top six for their team.

After a grueling day, the three Cowbridge boys deserved to receive the honour of being Welsh Schools National Cross Country champions 2014.

Reported by Wil O'Connor, year 7.

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Eye-catching design at an attractive price...

THE NISSAN JUKE HAS PLENTY TO OFFER YOU!

The Nissan Juke.

BY TIM SAUNDERS

THAT'S the combination on offer from Nissan with its Juke, the increasingly fashionable compact sports utility vehicle.

There's no denying it, it's a great design that from a distance looks like a three door but thanks to cleverly concealed rear door handles it is actually a five door vehicle.

For under £15,000 excluding VAT it represents extremely good value for money, too. It seems to appeal to all generations from the young girl who cycles past and tells her dad how she likes it through to the middle aged man who simply stands and stares and the gentleman of senior years who I spot in Weymouth driving one.

Arguably, the brown finish of the test vehicle lends itself to the design although I feel that cream leather upholstery would complement this particularly well.

As it is, the black cloth seats are comfortable, even over a fairly long journey from Hampshire to Dorset.

The raised ride height is always a welcome bonus for me because it gives greater command of the road. It also allows the driver to spot parking spaces that others do not in packed car parks.

I find the 1.5 diesel unit pleasantly 'poky' at speeds under 60mph with third gear being very responsive between 30mph and 60mph.

Over that speed, it proves slower than expected and at times struggles to hold its own while in the outside lane of the motorway. Hills slow it up a bit requiring a change down to fourth gear but it is only a 1.5 litre and a diesel and so overall it does a good job. With hard driving it will return over 40mpg.

The best recorded was around 47mpg. Perhaps surprisingly the Juke really does hold the road and feels like it's on rails when cornering, meaning that it can be driven with gusto even around bends.

Rather than simply being an attractive head-turner it is also pleasingly a driver's car helped by the fairly hard suspension. The n-tec model tested also comes fitted with cruise control which is useful for motorway cruising.

The test takes place just after the UK has been badly battered by storms and the Juke copes with the floods admirably. Just down the road from my parents-in-law there is an enormous flood that has previously shut the road but the Juke makes light work of it.

Reversing the Juke is made easier by the camera display on the dashboard. Without that it would be a little tricky due to the design of the rear.

While we're talking about the rear, it looks a little awkward to me, there is something that could be improved about it but I can't quite put my finger on what.

Head on and the side profile both get a firm 10 out of 10 but the rear gets 8.

Inside it is well equipped with all round electric windows, air conditioning and sat nav as you can see in the video at *testdrives.biz*. I also like the bulbous chrome door handles. There is enough room inside for four or five occupants to be comfortable and the boot is large enough for a pushchair.

A very capable and enjoyable SUV.

Facts at a glance:
New price: £14,695 excl VAT;
Total retail price: £17,635;
Top speed: 109mph;
0-60mph: 11.2secs;
Economy: up to 47mpg (urban).

Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz.

Golf course's investment

COTTRELL PARK Golf Resort near Cardiff has unveiled a comprehensive investment plan to improve facilities and on-course machinery.

The south Wales golf and leisure destination is set to re-invest over £230,000 to strengthen its catering and golf offering.

As part of an extensive development and growth strategy, Cottrell Park Golf Resort has spent over £180,000 on new machinery for golf course management and a fleet of golf buggies, as well as £50,000 on a complete kitchen refurbishment.

It has now purchased two Toro 4000D Batwings to manage the semi rough and two Toro Fairway mowers to promote efficiency whilst maintaining 230 acres of mown grass to the highest cut standard.

The 12 new golf buggies and 10 PowaKaddy electric trolleys will also benefit both golfing members and non-members who do not own certain equipment or cannot always travel with their electric trolley.

Opened in 1996 and based within 400 acres of historical parkland, Cottrell Park Golf Resort offers two championship-maintained golf courses and much more; for more information visit *www.cottrellpark.com*.

Vale Resort could be a team base for Rugby World Cup

THE Vale Resort, in Hensol, has been named as one of 65 identified venues in Wales and England selected for the approved list of potential Rugby World Cup 2015 team bases.

England Rugby 2015 received applications from more than 80 venues wanting to host the visiting teams for the global event.

However, only 65 venues met the team base criteria and will go onto the next stage of the selection process, in which up to 50 of the approved 65 will be confirmed for use during the six-week rugby tournament.

England Rugby 2015 will confirm the chosen bases following team visits and final selection in mid-2014.

The four-star Vale Resort met the Rugby World Cup 2015 team base criteria of offering indoor and outdoor training facilities, a gym, an indoor swimming pool as well as high-quality hotel facilities.

Paul Beddoe, sales and marketing director at the Vale Resort, said: "We are thrilled to have been recognised as an approved team base for the Rugby World Cup 2015.

"At the Vale Resort, we are very proud of our range of top notch facilities we have on offer and our inclusion as an approved team base confirms this. Supporting global sporting clubs is at the heart of our offering with the Welsh Rugby Union, Cardiff City Football Club and the Cardiff Blues calling the Vale Resort their training-base home."

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Weather falls kindly for Kart Club

THE weather gods again looked kindly on Llandow Kart Club as round two of the 2014 season was accompanied by dry and sunny conditions, although a blustery breeze kept drivers on their toes in south Wales.

Around 60 entries ensured that numbers were up on the opening meeting of the season, with a number of new faces and visitors from other clubs adding to the occasion.

With one late scratch, the Bambino category featured the same three drivers as February, and Nathan Browning, Ella Stevens and Max Hall all acquitted themselves well over the full circuit, achieving silver awards all round. Next month, however, Llandow is bracing itself for as many as 30 Bambinos, courtesy of a visit from round two of the Bambino Kart Club's national tour.

The combined Cadet field boasted 15 runners, with the Honda section again being the best represented. However, it was IAME driver Shay Keough who crossed the line first in the final, holding off the Honda-powered Ferguson brothers by less than a second, with Comer winner Max Fenlon in fourth.

Keough was the man to beat in IAME, although Thomas Nippers did secure the first heat, while the Ferguson boys were back on form after a frustrating opening round, with Stuart claiming heat one and brother Oscar heat three. Celtic champion Stuart also had the upper hand in the final, coming home just 0.18secs shy of Keough but claiming the Honda class win while his brother and George Alp-Williams completed the podium. Connor Kearney provided Fenlon's closest opposition in Comers, with Jakob Chamberlain completing the podium, whilst Shayne Clarke was nominated as the weekend's Best Novice.

Junior Honda was once again dominated by Celtic Challenge champion Kristian Prosser, who claimed victory in all three heats before cruising to an eleven-second win in the final, almost exactly repeating his feat from February. Indeed, the entire class came close to repeating last month's formbook, with Patrick Hill and novice Jack Bligh completing the top three each time – remaining in that order despite being closely matched – while rookies Sofia Nardone and Alex Wilkins squabbled over fourth and fifth.

As in round one, Rob Ellis remained unbeaten throughout the Junior Rotax competition, although his margin of victory remained at around four seconds as Thomas Croydon, David Spiller and Tom Ford took it in turns to give chase. Despite Spiller's ever-presence in the top three, it was Croydon who emerged at the head of the battle for runners-up honours in the final, reversing their positions from round one.

MiniMax was again claimed by Riley Phillips, who won his class in three of the four outings, and mixed it with the back of the Juniors in heat three. The day's other win went to Jem Hempworth, who comfortably headed Kieran Clarke and novice Callum Beeken in the battle for second in the main event.

Reigning Welsh champion Yousuf Ashraf saved his best for last in Junior TKM, building on a series of top three heat results to finally come out on top when it mattered in the Final. Alex Rees (twice) and Hugo Holmes had denied Ashraf and Sam Johns earlier in the day, but had to settle for third and fourth respectively in the main event as the top two pulled away to be separated by just 0.12secs at the chequered flag. Rees, however, was later rewarded with Driver of the Day honours.

Senior Honda numbers were boosted by the return of Hugh Jones, but it was this season's graduates from the Junior level that made the headlines in the heats as Ben Stevens (twice) and Cristiano Nardone claimed the wins. Danny Griffiths and Chris Lipscomb were forced to take a watching brief through the qualifiers, but came good in the main event to fill the top two spots respectively, with Nardone also finding the podium after Stevens was left nursing a DNF when it mattered most.

Senior Rotax returned to double figures in March, but proved to be the domain of Gareth Taylor and Dilip Singh. Having finished second overall in round one, Taylor opened up with victory in heats one and three sandwiching third in race two, but it was Singh, after a quiet start, who came good at the end, denying his rivals by a couple of seconds in the final and adding fastest lap to boot. Taylor's day ended with another top three result, but he had to be content with third on the road after Josh Gray stole into second spot to add to his heat two victory. Round one winner Sebastian Hutchinson was only sixth this time around.

Round three of the 2014 championship takes place at South Wales Karting Centre on Sunday, April 20.

RESULTS:

BAMBINO Silver Award Nathan Browning (CRG), Ella Stevens (CK), Max Hall. CADET HONDA 1. Stuart Ferguson (Project One), 2. Oscar Ferguson (Project One), 3. George Alp-Williams (Project One). CADET COMER 1. Max Fenlon (RK Birel), 2. Connor Kearney (Zip), 3. Jakob Chamberlain (Zip). CADET IAME 1. Shay Keough (Zip), 2, Thomas Nippers (Zip).

JUNIOR HONDA 1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 2. Patrick Hill (Wright), 3. Jack Bligh (7Kart). JUNIOR TKM 1. Yousuf Ashraf (Jade), 2. Sam Johns (Jade), 3. Alex Rees (Jade). JUNIOR ROTAX 1. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 2. Tom Croydon (Gillard), 3. David Spiller (Alonso). MINI MAX 1. Riley Phillips (Kosmic), 2. Jem Hempworth (CRG), 3. Kieran Clarke (Tonykart).

SENIOR HONDA 1. Danny Griffiths (MS), 2. Chris Lipscomb (7Kart), 3. Cristiano Nardone (7Kart). SENIOR ROTAX 1. Dilip Singh (CRG), 2. Josh Gray (Tonykart), 3. Gareth Taylor (Tonykart). BEST NOVICE: Shayne Clarke (Comer Cadet); DRIVER OF THE DAY: Alex Rees (Junior TKM).

CRAIG LLEWELLYN

James and Bradley's delight

JAMES TUDOR, assistant trainer to Llancarfan's Evan Williams, and Bradley Gibbs, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, both had doubles at the well attended Monmouthshire Hunt's Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Llanvapley.

James was successful on *Doc Wells* (Intermediate) and *Repeat Business* (Restricted) and Gibbs, who was standing in for the sidelined Evan David, took both divisions of the maiden on the half-brothers *Rainbow Haze* and *Driftwood Haze* owned by Phil Dando and trained by Phil's wife Kathryn.

Doc Wells, an 11-year-old bay gelding, who was responsible for his owner Tom Faulkner breaking a leg and an ankle after falling from him in the week, ran on strongly in the closing stages to finish three lengths ahead of *Patricktom Boru* (John Mathias), and Jeffrey Bird's six-year-old bay gelding *Repeat Performance* came home 20 lengths ahead of *Bob The Butcher* (Bradley Gibbs), who put paid to his chances when making a bad mistake three fences from the finish.

The men's open race went to David Llewellyn's *Rosies Peacock* who, ridden by John Mathias, had 10 lengths to spare over Richard Hambleton's former winning hurdler *Pancake* (James Tudor).

Bridgend builder Roger Willcox saw his *Lauberhorn* come from last to first to land the ladies' open race by 15 lengths from *Mighty Snazy*.

Lauberhorn, a former inmate of Evan Williams' yard, is not known as a mud lover but under Evan's stable lass Anna Metekohy the seven-year-old bay gelding coped well with the holding conditions.

Horse racing mad Connor Brace, aged 12, a pupil of St Clares School, Porthcawl, rode a well-judged race on his 10-year-old bay mare *Molly V111* to win the 138 cms pony race.

The 148cms pony race went to Jordon Williams, aged 15, who was riding his 9-year-old chestnut mare *Peateaoh*.

BRIAN LEE

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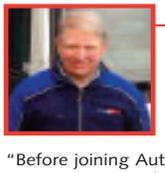

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Llantwit Major junior rugby round-up

WITH the clocks going forward to mark the start of British summertime, Llantwit Major under-16s produced a performance full of spring promise against a valiant CRICC side, who came to play their fast paced off-loading game.

Recent matches between these two sides have produced close finishes. The boys expected another titanic struggle. In reality the home side produced a performance of high quality and ran out very comfortable 48-5 winners, scoring eight high quality tries in the process.

The Llantwit boys needed to respond after a lacklustre performance the previous week, when they scraped a draw away at Llandaff. The intensity of training during the week was taken on to the pitch and from the first whistle the home side set about the visitors and dominated all areas from the start.

Llantwit were quickly on the attack and were able to pin the visitors in their own 22. From the base of an attacking scrum outstanding scrum half Steffen Godwin fed No 10 Iestyn Jones who spotted a small gap in the CRICC defence.

Some fancy footwork saw him exploit the gap from 15 metres out and have the pace and the power to score, despite the attention of two defenders who were left in his wake. An early 5-0 lead was just reward for the dominance of the home pack.

Llantwit were quickly back on the attack and some excellent press defence forced an error from the visitors. The ball was quickly recycled to flying winger Charlie Neale, who squeezed over out wide for another unconverted try.

An excellent clearing kick from just outside his own 22 by Jones turned the pressure back on CRICC by gaining 50 metres. The visitors were unable to control the lineout, and superb work by Croucher at the resulting breakdown saw the ball fed to No8 Tom Winter for him to claim the first of his brace of tries. Jones converted.

Winter was quickly on the scoreboard again with a thundering run from the 22 to score in the corner. Jones sent the conversion attempt just wide

The first half ended with a richly deserved try for pack workhorse Tyler Lewis. He rampaged through from 10 metres in a pre-planned move which was superbly executed to allow Lewis to score near the posts; Jones converted to secure a 29-0 halftime lead.

The second half opened with CRICC looking threatening but again the Llantwit defence was able to repel the visitors efforts. The home coaches had shaken the pack up at halftime and were able to introduce the bulk and power of Prop Julian Boswell and No8 James Cousens.

Both boys had a point to prove and both responded superbly. Boswell was next on the score sheet with an excellent try which was converted by Jones.

The home pack continued to dominate, with reluctant prop forward Morgan Thomas, giving a man of the match performance, using his pace to go close from 60 metres out; he was pulled down just short of the line.

To their immense credit the visitors continued to try to play rugby but the pressure the Llantwit defence put them under caused them to knock on at halfway.

The resulting scrum saw the try of the match from fullback Todd Oldfield. Centres Joe Bunt and Liam Sloan ran superb dummy lines to buy time for Iestyn Jones to feed Oldfield, who hit the line at pace. He went over under the posts to make the conversion easy for Jones.

Oldfield was hungry for more and he ended the home side's scoring blitz with his second try. This time he only had to fall over the line from two metres out after a superb break from the impressive Charlie Neale, who was tackled just short but was able to offload to Oldfield.

With their backs to the wall CRICC responded superbly to finish the match with a well taken try. The visitors had played their part in a fantastic game of rugby. Ultimately they were out-played and out-powered by a Llantwit side who produced their best performance of the season.

Next up for Llantwit is the visit of Pentyrch, who will provide another stern test for the boys.

TJ

LLANTWIT MAJOR AMMOKNIGHTS 44, GLAMORGAN WANDERERS 12

The AmmoKnights (under-12s) welcomed Glamorgan Wanderers to the recreation ground on a glorious Sunday morning.

Llantwit started with a bang and as the ball got spread wide, wing Zac Williams outpaced the defence to score his first try for the AmmoKnights.

As the game looked to settle down the AmmoKnights started to pressure the Wanderers line and flanker Oskar Williams picked up and drove over to increase the lead to 10-0.

Two minutes later it was 15-0 as Ethan White took advantage of some sluggish defending to ease over in the corner. Sam Croucher soon added the fourth as Wanderers left the back of the ruck exposed to pick up and sprint clear, taking the scoreline to 20-0 with only 14 minutes on the clock.

The under-9s team. PICTURE BY CLARE PRICE

SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 28!

Ninety seconds later Morgan Jenkins exposed holes in the Wanderers defence and it was 25-0 and looking ominous for the visitors. It took until the last play of the half before Zac Williams added his second; some great work by the backs put him into space and he easily beat the opposition to score under the posts. The conversion was slotted over by Morgan Greenway and the halftime score was 32-0.

The second half saw Ollie Wong and Oskar Williams in Wanderers colours and they started causing problems for the Llantwit defence. Within two minutes of the second half Wanderers had their first points following a good close quarter try.

The game tightened up with Llantwit trying push the play and Wanderers keeping the ball close by and it took until the 18th minute of the second half for Wanderers to get their second try.

At 32-12 Wanderers were now pushing hard to get back into the game but the reintroduction of Ethan White and Morgan Jenkins soon dampened and thoughts of a comeback as they added a try each with the AmmoKnights running out 44-12 winners.

A big hand has to go to Luke Hinken-Evans, Ben Reilly, Ollie Wong and Oskar Williams, who all played for the opposition and worked hard, with Oskar Williams performing well for both sides.

MR

SILVER MEDALS FOR UNDER-9S!

ON a beautiful Mothering Sunday, Llantwit Major under-9s took part in the Cardiff and Vale District tournament; there were 16 teams taking part in the tournament, split into four groups. In Llantwit's group was Rhiwbina Grey Squirrels, Pentyrch and Llandaff Navy.

Llantwit's first pool match was against Llandaff Navy. Llantwit started well, and the first try of the match was from Logan. Both teams worked hard, tackling and passing well. Sam H and Rhys worked an amazing switch pass, which even had the referee fooled, allowing Sam H to go on and score.

It was try for try throughout the game and Llandaff were making Llantwit work hard. Sam A made two great breaks through the Llandaff defence to score twice, finishing their first pool game with a win, 4-3 to Llantwit.

The next match was against Pentyrch. This was a very physical, hard-hitting game. Crunching tackles were being made by both teams. Llantwit's Sam H was tackling everything that came near him, forcing Pentyrch backwards on a number of occasions.

After some great team play, Rhys skipped over the line to score Llantwit's first try. Pentyrch were quick to follow suit, putting pressure on Llantwit's defence, and sneaking over the line for their first try of the game.

The second half of the game saw more hard tackles and great defence from both sides. It was due to hard work and planned moves that Dylan W charged over the line to score Llantwit's second try of the game, and the final try of this match. Final score Llantwit 2, Pentyrch 1.

Llantwit were looking good to get through to the quarter finals, with one more pool match to go against Rhiwbina Grey Squirrels. Llantwit were out to win this game and finish top of their group.

They started the match running hard and fast, with Josh scoring the first try of the match. Llantwit worked hard at opening the field up, which made way for Dylan M to score two fantastic tries running on the wing.

Josh and Iwan were working hard, chasing play backwards, forcing Rhiwbina to make errors. Logan broke through the middle of the Rhiwbina defence to score. Rhiwbina were not giving up, and they pushed Llantwit's defence hard. Tom and Josh made some great try-saving tackles.

Rhiwbina were only able to break through once in the match and it was Llantwit's Sam A that finished the match with a fantastic run through to score. Final score 5-1 to Llantwit. Llantwit had won their pool, and they were through to the quarter finals! Llantwit were to play runners up of group 3, Llandaff Sky.

After a quick team talk, telling the boys to keep calm and play a simple game, Llantwit were ready. It was a hard and fast running game, and Llantwit's Dylan M ran in two quick tries at the start.

Aneurin and Corey, and some fantastic tackles, slowed Llandaff down. It was Sam A who broke through the Llandaff defence to score next, taking the halftime score to 3-0 to Llantwit.

The second half saw Llandaff fight back. They passed well, made some amazing runs, but only once were they able to get past Llantwit's strong defence. Logan pushed and twisted his way past a number of defenders to score his third try of the tournament, but it was Llantwit's Caleb who scored the final try of the match. Final score 5-1 to Llantwit and they had made it to the semi-final!

CRICC Gwrydd were Llantwit's opponents for the semi-finals. CRICC were first off the mark, but Llantwit quickly stepped up their game, some quick hands from Owen, and some fantastic running from Jack, opened the field making space for Rhys to run in his second try of the tournament.

It was Owen who scored the next two tries with some amazing footwork, and great speed on the wing, and the halftime the score was 3-1 to Llantwit.

Only once more were CRICC able to break through Llantwit's defence.

Jack and Sam A made some amazing runs on the wing, and it was Sam A for who was able to get over the try line twice more before the final whistle. Final score 5-2 to Llantwit and they were now in the District final!

The final was to be against a very strong St Peters team and it was a fantastic, nail-biting match.

St Peters opened the scoring with their player crashing through Llantwit's line. Llantwit worked hard to try and bring the scores level, but the St Peters defence was outstanding, and they scored again.

Llantwit had to work at keeping the ball in their possession and playing together, passing the ball through their players. Just before the halftime whistle Owen broke through the defence and threw himself over the line to bring the halftime score to 2-1 to St Peters.

The halftime talk for Llantwit was just to keep calm, make no silly mistakes and keep possession of the ball and the tries would come. Back on the pitch, the players put everything they had into the game. There was awesome tackling and fantastic running from both teams.

It was St Peters who scored the next try after a silly mistake from the Llantwit defence. In the closing minutes of the game, Llantwit's Sam A pulled out an amazing run through the field to score the final try of the game. The final score was 3-2 to St Peters.

So it was silver medals for Llantwit Major under-9s - a fantastic day of rugby from everyone, we areso proud of all the boys! Well done!

Squad: Owen Hill, Sam Harry, Josh Wakeham, Sam Alexander, Jack Taylor, Iwan Thomas, Corey Lougher, Aneurin Price, Tomas Roberts, Logan Pike, Dylan Wright, Caleb Beare, William Harrison-Watt, Rhys Greenaway and Dylan Morgan.

A massive thanks to the coaches, Phil, Pete and Martin, and to all the parents and grandparents who came to support the team.

SR

Magnificent seven for Bridgend Athletic!

ABOVE: Dan Apsee and Owain Evans break through and RIGHT: Simon Mustoe and Tom Penry Ellis hold off the Bonymaen tacklers. PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC maintained their excellent run of form and remain unbeaten in the National Championship league in 2014.

Their 19-11 victory over Bonymaen was their seventh consecutive unbeaten game and third league double, with six wins and a draw giving them 26 of their 47 points in the last seven games.

They made things difficult for themselves against the Swansea side with only 50 per cent accuracy in goal kicking, landing five out of 10 attempts in tricky kicking conditions with a swirling wind.

The pack gave Bonymaen a torrid time, exacting revenge for past seasons with well executed rolling mauls and complete dominance in the set piece scrums and line outs.

Bonymaen are scrapping for their existence in the Championship and were a very determined side in defence and hard to break down.

The early pressure resulted in two penalties which unfortunately went wide of the upright – though in fairness, the one from Josh White was from the halfway line.

Finally in the 15th minute outside half Steven Lewis found his range with a 35 metre penalty to open the scoring. A succession of errors by the Athletic saw Bonymaen make a rare incursion into the Athletic half and win a penalty which outside half Ryan Cunniffe used to level the scores.

There was no further scoring in the half as the Athletic were unable to breach the determined Bonymaen defence – although full back Josh White and wing Tom Bluck combined well in an attack that was thwarted just short of the try line.

Within two minutes of the restart the Athletic frittered another penalty opportunity. However, a minute later the Athletic at last gained a reward for their pressure.

Flanker and captain Sean Williams gathered a clearance and made good ground into the Bonymaen half. He set up a ruck and quick ball via half backs Owain Evans and Lewis to centres Chris Price and Lyndsey MaCausland saw No 8 Dan Apsee enter the line at an angle and scythe through the away defence with a 35 metre run to cross wide out; this put him level top try scorer on three for the season.

Lewis landed the difficult conversion. However he was off target with another easier penalty a minute later, before increasing the lead to 13-3 in the 50th minute with his second penalty.

Bonymaen struck back and a deliberate knock on in front of the posts by Athletic wing Dan Howells saw him assigned to the sin bin and Cunniffe land his second penalty.

Bonymaen were showing great spirit and from a scrum on the Athletic 22 moved the ball wide to see wing Nathan Brookes enter the line at speed between the centres and outpace the Athletic defence to cross midway out.

Cunniffe was also experiencing difficulty with his accuracy and failed to level the scores.

The Athletic pack took it on themselves to kill off Bonymaen resistance. The front row, with prop Huw Morris, voted man of the match, Simon Mustoe and Rhodri Apsee gave their opposite numbers a torrid time at the set scrums.

Locks Tom Penry-Ellis and Griff Davies carried effectively; while Sean Williams, Dan Apsee and flanker Lewis Down ensured any Bonymaen attempts to break the stranglehold were stopped at source.

The Athletic, with five minutes remaining, set up a devastating rolling maul, carrying the ball from their own 22 right into the Bonymaen 22.

Only an illegal pull down of the maul prevented a dramatic score; Lewis landed the resultant penalty.

In the final minute Bonymaen again infringed at a ruck and Lewis landed his fourth penalty to move on to 197 points for the season and deny Bonymaen the losing bonus point they desperately needed.

This week the Athletic visit north Wales side RGC1404 who lie second in the table.

For the next two weekends the Athletic will be shorn of their three Maltese internationals in the pack, Rhodri and Dan Apsee and Darren Deguera, who will be representing Malta in World Cup qualifying matches against the Netherlands and Switzerland. The club wishes them well.

If the Athletic are to maintain their unbeaten run and record their fourth seasonal double at RGC they will have to be at their best and make sure any goal kicking opportunities find the target.

The following Saturday (April 12), the Athletic entertain runaway champions Ebbw Vale.

A spectator at the match was former playing stalwart scrum half John Doherty. John said he is flattered and overwhelmed, and would like to thank all current and former Athletic players, supporters and the club committee for helping him raise over £2000 for the south Wales charity Tenovus, when he runs the London marathon on April 13.

AB

AASE team's revenge!

THE Maesteg-based AASE South Wales Rugby League Academy side got their revenge for their one conversion defeat at home before Christmas, by beating the Bristol Academy 28-22 on their own turf.

The Welsh travelled to Filton College last Wednesday with a just a 15-man squad as they were depleted with an outbreak of mumps, with even the head of the coaching staff, Jon Ellis, catching the virus last week!

However after a week of re-evaluating their style of attack and the defensive cycle, the Welsh were in confident mood and within four minutes of kick off Bristol were cut to pieces by hooker Zac Williams who scored under the posts, Shane Lee converting the try.

Maesteg piled on the pressure and hit Bristol with another try at close range from Williams with Lee slipping and missing the conversion.

It wasn't long before the Welsh worked a series of moves to the Bristol try line and Daniel Maiden was the third try scorer with Zac Williams converting to make the score 16-0.

Bristol then managed to score an opportunist try at the point of halftime from an ill-defended scrum. It was Joe Folkes who went over the line, jinking under the posts with James Mason converting.

However following three successive sets, the Welsh turned on the style with Regan Grace showing great speed and foot work scoring on the left flank and Zac Williams converting.

Bristol's larger squad on the day enabled them to bring on some fresh players after the break who managed to find holes in the now tiring Maesteg defence. Greg Hamilton got a try back from a Folkes pass and the try was converted by Mason to make the score 12-22.

But the Welsh soon made the game safe. Zac Williams scored again off the back of a well-planned move on the left flank, converting his own try.

Maesteg pushed again but a lack of communication resulted in Bristol intercepting a speculative pass and Brandon Lamb scoring in the left corner.

There was a nervy finish after Folkes got his second for the home side, intercepting a pass to go in from 30 metres out.

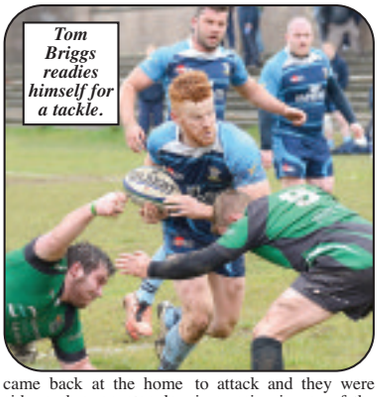
Mason converted to complete the scoring, but the depleted Welsh side just about held on and proud coach Jon Ellis said: "It was a great game as a sporting spectacle with an abundance of big hits, high skill sets and amazing passion from both sides. I'm really proud of the players putting their bodies on the line for each other."

IG

ABOVE: Aaron Grabham makes his way through a defensive hole. PICTURES BY PETER GILLING.

Injuries cost Kenfig Hill dear

THIS was a full blooded encounter between Kenfig Hill and Waenarlwydd, clubs who lay third and fourth in the league, with some ferocious tackling throughout the game.



Tom Briggs readies himself for a tackle.

Kenfig Hill kept possession from the kick off and began a move which took them upfield and were only stopped by the home side conceding a penalty which outside half Nicky Giles converted. Waenarlwydd replied with a penalty by full back Josh Hammett.

The home side attacked from the restart and gained another penalty which went wide; Giles then hit the posts with a penalty attempt, Kenfig Hill second row Jon Thomas caught the ball and a forward rush saw the Mules on the line only to be awarded a penalty which Giles made no mistake with.

A dazzling run by full back Raymond Evans saw the Mules again close to the line and only desperate defence kept them out.

Kenfig Hill then had clean ball from the scrum and the ball spun across the back line to left winger Chris Jenkins who cut inside between the winger and centre to score.

Waenarlwydd then scored a penalty through Hammett. Kenfig Hill came back at the home side and a spectacular break by scrum half Tom Briggs from his own 25 saw him reach the home 25 before releasing the ball to winger Chris Jenkins, who went over for his second try. This gave a halftime score of Kenfig Hill 18, Waunarlwydd 6.

A mistake by the visitors saw Waenarlwydd score a try through outside half Dan Fox just after the restart. After this four players were lost due to injury in quick succession including the half backs, full back and wing forward.

The Mules changed tactics and kept the ball in the forwards; however Waen scored their second try through their captain and blindside flanker Dan Joseph, converted by Hammett.

The Mules continued to attack and they were impressive in use of the rocking maul and only some last ditch defensive work kept them out and at one point the referee blew up and awarded Kenfig Hill the penalty when substitute Chris Leyshon was in position to cross the line.

Totally against the run of play the home side scored a long distance try through scrum half Dan Davies with the final move of the game to make the final score Kenfig Hill 18, Waenarlwydd 25.

The Mules scrum had the upper hand all game and they took all their own lineouts and Kenfig Hill can say without rancour that injuries cost them a victory.

Man of the match for Kenfig Hill was Chris Jenkins with centres Chris Tossell and Rhodri Clark playing well, as did scrum half Tom Briggs, while the forwards played well as a unit both in set pieces and in the loose.

The club was saddened this week to hear of the passing away of former player Philip Shadis.

Phil was a player of note who played with distinction for Maesteg for many seasons. Phil was a popular figure in the club and will be sadly missed; our deepest sympathies go to his family.

GOS

Ray Evans slips through.